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Le roi Hussein en médiateur pour l'accord d'Hebron

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Peace process resumes as Arafat clinches Hebron deal

By Rebecca Trounson and Marjorie Miller
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

EREZ—After months of bitter wrangling, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met before dawn Wednesday to conclude a long-awaited agreement for Israel to pull back its troops from most of Hebron and turn the occupied West Bank city over to Palestinian rule.

Netanyahu and Arafat, who waded through deep mutual distrust to wrap up the US-brokered accord, also agreed to an accompanying American letter setting a timetable for further Israeli pull-backs in the West Bank and promising to resume final negotiations on outstanding issues.

The Hebron agreement—the first concrete step in peace-making between Netanyahu's Likud government and the Palestinians—puts about 80 percent of Hebron under control of Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

Hebron's Jewish enclaves, with about 450 residents, and the Ibrahim Mosque, a site holy to Muslims and Jews, will remain under control of the Israeli army.

The accord, initiated by the



Arafat and Netanyahu meet, Tuesday, hours before they wrapped up negotiations that led to the Hebron deal early Wednesday

chief negotiators for the two sides—Saeb Erekat for the Palestinians and Dan Shomron for the Israelis—was being discussed and expected to be approved late Wednesday. Israeli officials predict it will be ratified by a narrow majority of the

right-wing and religious ministers. Israeli officials said the agreement then most likely would be put before a special session of parliament Thursday. Arafat and Netanyahu then must sign the agreement. The

redeployment could begin as early as Thursday night. The Israeli army have said a pull-back could occur hours after an order is given.

In Washington, President Clinton called the latest accord as "a step forward to a lasting

Middle East Peace." He praised all who had helped negotiate it and said, "Once again the forces of peace have prevailed over a history of division." Clinton noted the accord is not an end in itself.

"This is not a time to relax," Clinton said. "Bringing its words to life will require active and continued cooperation." US mediator Dennis Ross, meantime, called the Hebron accord "fair and balanced" and said the American letter provided a map for the future.

Ross said the two leaders, after they finished their work, telephoned to thank Clinton. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein for their mediation.

But neither Netanyahu nor Arafat addressed reporters early Wednesday. The discomfort each feels in the other's presence was visible in their unsmiling faces and perfunctory handshakes.

Wednesday's agreement, hammered out in months of roller-coaster negotiations, contains few, if any, significant changes from the interim peace accord signed by the Palestinians and the previous, Labor party government in September 1995.

Under the interim accord, Is-

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King Hussein is greeted by President Arafat in Gaza Sunday

King's rescue mission puts peace process back on track

Special to The Star

THE SUCCESSFUL conclusion of the Hebron deal early yesterday could not have taken place if it was not for the last minute diplomatic rescue mission staged by His Majesty King Hussein Sunday to save deadlocked talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

The unexpected intervention of the King came as Dennis Ross, the Clinton administration's special envoy, announced an empty-handed departure from the region—and then, for the second time in less than three months, decided not to fly home after all.

Instead, Ross, the US special Middle East coordinator, huddled until nearly midnight with the King and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the Israeli Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv. The King announced that "a fresh beginning" for the talks has been scored when he emerged Sunday night.

Israelis and Palestinians have negotiated intensively for more than three months to complete their first accord under Netanyahu, which amounts to an implementation plan for Israel's previous agreement to withdraw its army from most of the West Bank city of Hebron.

The deal has been stuck for some weeks on Arafat's suspicion that Netanyahu will stall or renege on subsequent Israeli withdrawals from rural

areas of the West Bank.

Before flying to Tel Aviv, King Hussein spent seven hours with Arafat in Gaza City. The two leaders embraced and kissed, and the King's visit to Gaza—among the first by any head of state—buoyed the Palestinian leader.

Included in their long meeting were telephone conversations with Ross, Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, then accompanied King Hussein to Tel Aviv.

Netanyahu, like Arafat, has had his ups and downs with the Jordanian leadership. The relationship with King Hussein was Netanyahu's warmest in the Arab world when he started his term as prime minister, but it has grown frosty in recent months.

But just as in Gaza City, King Hussein arrived warmly in Tel Aviv, smiling and pressing long handshakes with the Israeli premier.

"His majesty has come with a number of things to impart to us," Netanyahu said as he met the King at the gate of the military complex. "He has been a great friend of Israel and a great friend of peace."

Afterward, Netanyahu said the talks had made "considerable progress on topics which are not related to Hebron."

Iraqi-Jordanian talks intensify for renewal of trade protocol

By Ilham Sadeq
Star Staff Writer

AFTER SOME delay, the joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee is expected to meet in Baghdad next week. A ministerial economic delegation arrived in Baghdad on Wednesday headed by Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abul Ragheb and Minister of Energy Dr. Hashem Dabbas and other senior officials.

This meeting was scheduled last Monday but was postponed due to differences, described as technical, concerning the renewal of the trade protocol between Jordan and Iraq for 1997 and the volume of Iraqi crude oil exports to Jordan. While Jordan is seeking to increase its oil imports from Iraq by seven percent, Iraq is demanding an increase in the size of the trade protocol that was lowered by Jordan last year from \$400 million to \$250 million.

Earlier this week, uncon-



Kabarti and Aziz: Finding common grounds

firmed news reports said that Iraq has decided to sell its crude oil to Jordan at spot prices. The reports added that such a decision has been conveyed during Dr. Dabbas's visit

to Iraq two weeks ago. But the minister denied these reports and said that Jordan's imports of oil and its by-products presently stand at 12,000 tons daily, half of which is sold to

Jordan at the preferential price of \$15.25 per barrel, while the spot market price currently reaches \$25 per barrel.

Jordanian economist Dr. Fahd Al Faneek told *The Star* that he does not believe Iraq will sell oil to Jordan at market prices but may be asking for a slightly higher price than the \$15.25 one for this year. He expected negotiators to settle at around \$18 per barrel, costing the Jordanian Treasury an additional JD 6 to JD 7 million.

On Monday Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz met with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti to discuss bilateral issues. He told reporters that Iraq was still committed to supplying Jordan with free oil.

Mr. Aziz said that since 1990, Iraq had been supplying Jordan with 35,000 barrels of oil per day free of charge under a grant from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. However, in 1993 and upon the consent of

both sides, Iraq continued to supply Jordan with oil shipments of which 50 percent were free of charge and 50 percent was sold at \$15 per barrel, while the spot price was \$20.

Mr. Aziz said that because of the effects of UN sanctions imposed on Iraq, it was forced to import commodities from Jordan in return for its free oil exports to Jordan. He said while Jordan considered the value of these commodities as debts, Iraq did not. But he

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High Court struggles to find answers in Clinton vs. Jones

By David G. Savage
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

WASHINGTON—The US Supreme Court justices ended a frustrating hour-long argument Monday in the case of Bill Clinton vs. Paula Jones sounding divided and uncertain over whether her sexual harassment lawsuit should go forward while he remains in office.

The case poses novel and difficult legal questions: Should the president be entirely immune from all civil suits while in office or forced to answer to all such suits, just like any other citizen? Or should the rule be somewhere in between, perhaps allowing some pre-trial depositions but blocking an actual trial?

Adopting either extreme position—total immunity or none—obviously troubled the justices, yet the lawyers for each side offered little help in laying out a reasonable middle

ground. Wednesday, the high court will meet privately to discuss the case, vote on the outcome and begin the task of writing a majority opinion.

The ruling, due by the end of June, is especially hard to forecast, but the most likely outcome remains some sort of compromise.

On the one hand, a majority of the justices seem to indicate they did not want to give a trial judge the power to order the president to appear in a courtroom or to sit for a deposition.

On the other hand, they did not see why some "third-party witnesses," such as the Arkansas state troopers in this case, could not be ordered to give depositions under oath.

Such an approach, if adopted by the court, could prove politically damaging for Clinton.

Lawyers for Jones, the former Arkansas state employee who alleges that then-Gov. Clinton crudely propositioned her, want to take testimony

from witnesses who were in the Little Rock hotel that day in May 1991.

They include state trooper Danny Ferguson, who is said to have arrived with Clinton and later escorted the young woman to a private room on an upper floor.

They also want to take statements from other troopers who traveled with Clinton while he was governor.

Since 1994, Jones' attorneys have been barred from taking depositions, gathering hotel records or undertaking any other "discovery" in the case.

Lawyers for Clinton, claiming a "temporary immunity" for the chief executive, have argued no suit against a president may proceed until he leaves office.

"We're saying, 'Let's give Ms. Jones her day in court, just not now,'" Robert S. Bennett, Clinton's private attorney, told the justices. "The president of



Jones

the United States should not be taken away from his constitutional duties" because of a lawsuit, he said.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wondered if this immunity applied to all lawsuits.

"Suppose it was a child custody case," she said. If a future

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Political groups unite to combat normalization

By Raed Al Abed

THE OCTOBER 1994 Jordan-Israel peace treaty divided the country into two camps: those who support the peace option and those who stand against it. Two years later, the mood is changing again. The same treaty is reuniting the country, as peace supporters are realizing that their hopes for the fruits of prosperity and justice have not been fulfilled. On the contrary, there is a growing belief that the treaty has only served Israeli interests and widened its hegemony over the region.

Peace activists are now rethinking their old positions. "...for the sake of the future of the coming generations, I voted yes to the peace treaty," Lower House deputy Dr. Nazeeh Ammarin told the House's session in October 1994. Two years and three months later, a 180-degree U-turn has taken place. "I am sorry for the day I voted for the peace treaty," an embarrassed Ammarin told the 4000-strong protesters of the Israeli trade fair in Amman last week.

Peace opponents, who have been ineffective in the past few years, have now found inspiration in the lack of progress on the peace tracks. They succeeded in mobilizing an unprecedented mass protest against an Israeli trade fair last week that sent a strong signal that opposition to normalization with Israel is growing stronger.

The protest, which was the largest in Amman since the 1991 Gulf War, succeeded in recruiting the country's popular and political organizations. It included pro-peace treaty activists and representatives from over 20 political parties. The demonstration included legislators, trade unionists, professional associations, members of women organizations and a number of prominent pre-establishment figures.

The protest was a development in the reaction of the man in the street," said Toujan Faisal, the only female legislator in the Lower House. "At last Jordanians realized that the national interest is in jeopardy because of the peace treaty," she added. However, there are still great challenges. "The issue now is how to consolidate what has been achieved," she continued.

Observers believe that the protest part of a national program to confront Likudist plans and the fanaticism of orthodox Jewish parties. They believe that these parties are now redrawing their old designs for the region.

The old concept of "Jordan is Palestine" is being reactivated by Likud officials, they argue.

"The Israeli enemy is only implementing its Zionist theories," said Ya'qoub Zayaddeen, the general secretary of the Jordanian Communist Party. "We



Obiedat

are cooperating with the Egyptian opposition parties, to adopt their means in opposing normalization."

Middle-of-the-road parties have also jumped on the anti-normalization bandwagon, because they feel that there is a national demand to forge a strong front to re-adjust the government's policy and to force Jordanian diplomacy to adopt a decisive stand like those of other Arab states.

"We are peace seekers, but to talk about peace with Netanyahu is a mockery," said Anis Al Muasher, the general secretary of the Wa'd Party. "We should not let Netanyahu reap the fruits of his hostile policies. We call upon Arab leaders and people to unite to protect our

resources and to liberate Jerusalem," added the pro-peace former minister.

Despite its opening, the Israeli trade fair failed to achieve its goals in recruiting Jordanian commercial agents. Only 40 Israeli companies, out of 200, turned up at the expo.

"It was a great victory," said Laith Shbeilat, a vocal opposition activist recently released from jail on the King's order. In the past, Shbeilat added, the "authorities used to ban such gatherings. Now, people move as a pressure group to confront this policy."

The anti-normalization front is being led by former prime minister and intelligence chief Ahmad Obiedat.

The same man contributed to the growth of democracy in a big way. In 1990 Mr. Obiedat headed the Royal Commission to draw up the National Charter. The commission had representatives from different political, economic and popular sectors.

Today Mr. Obiedat continues to be critical of the treaty and the peace negotiations.

Early this month, he launched a strong attack on some official figures, accusing them of serving as "agents for Israeli interests in Jordan and the region," and he promised to expose them to the public.

Mr. Obiedat was described by Shbeilat as "a great gain to the opposition." Shbeilat, however, in a public lecture in Karak, attacked the National Charter

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Carlo Muttoni

When on bike around the world

By Munther Hamdan
Star Staff Writer

IT IS not an attempt to go around the world in 80 days, nor is it a publicity stunt but rather a long and personal journey of a cosmopolitan man seeking to explore the ever changing layers of life. It is like being an American driving along the highway and hooked to the Rock-n-Roll tunes, or a Mexican fighting with Zapatan rebels or an Indian herbalist curing illnesses.

This is what Mr Carlo Muttoni, an Italian in his mid-thirties, had in mind before embarking on a continental journey on his motorbike after finding out that his systematic life in Milan is no match to his great expectations.

A man with an adventurous soul like Muttoni is never satisfied with what he has achieved. In life there is always new things to look for, new people to meet with and new thoughts and beliefs to experience. Muttoni can be simply described as someone who fell in love with the whole world. "I'm a voracious reader of books relating the story of great poets and explorers who led exceptional lives and that was the incentive for me to start this journey," Muttoni told *The Star*.

Having a spacious house, a brand new car, a good job and a beautiful girlfriend could not diverge Muttoni from the course he decided for himself. He insisted in spite of all these temptations to go and see how people live and deal with each other around the world.

The journey started from America "to where I moved and bought a motorcycle in New York." The logistics of the journey were consummated by Muttoni who started the engine of his bike in June 1993. Going through Canada, the motorcyclist continued onto the frozen lands of Alaska on the west coast of America. But

Muttoni, it seems, could not stand the chilly weather and escaped to the south. This time he went through Mexico, Central America and from there to Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina in South America.

"When I first started my trip it was out of curiosity and then the human dimension became the most important part of my journey," he said. It is evident that Muttoni sought more than seeing people working, shopping or playing. It was, as he said, an attempt to get closer to those people and pretend that you belong to them. In this respect, Muttoni found in working in the countries he visited an opportunity to have more knowledge about people. "When you work at a certain place you work shoulder to shoulder with people. If you stay away from that you are just a tourist," he added.

However, the work provided Muttoni with much-needed money to enable him to proceed with a journey that has cost him so far \$60,000. "I worked in Argentina for about eight months. In New Zealand I worked as a cowboy and in Sydney as a carpenter."

The journey was scheduled to last two years but because Muttoni had to work in some countries to raise spending money, it was extended beyond that.

Temptations for Muttoni to stay at one of the countries he visited grew each day. Loving a girl might be a problem for someone who has such an ambitious goal. "I fell crazily in love with a woman in Buenos Aires and I was torn between staying there and relinquishing my dream of seeing the world. Also in Sydney a woman suggested that I work there and marry her but I refused," Muttoni added that "because you go through dangerous situations you can not take a woman with you."

He continued his journey, proceeding

to Tahiti, New Zealand and Australia. After Australia he went to India and from there to Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Syria and finally to Jordan.

From the west to the east, Muttoni has been introduced to completely different cultures even on the same continent. For example the people of America and Europe "who have access to information about the whole world are not as curious as those of Central America," Muttoni had to experience such diversity in his journey. "In a village in Central America people did not even know where Italy was," he said.

Muttoni believes that reading about different people and cultures is not enough. "As Edward Said said in his book *Orientalism*, the writers have two choices either to tell the truth or tell a bunch of lies to meet the expectations of their readers."

A journey such as his entailed different types of risks and dangers. It can be a bike crash just like what happened to Muttoni after three weeks from his departure when he broke his arm and injured his head. "I had to move the bike for 200 kilometers to the nearest station where it took one month to get the bike repaired. I drove afterwards with a plaster cast on my arm," he said. But escaping the rage of rebels in Mexico in October 1993 is another story. "When the rebels saw the US license plate on my



Muttoni on his bike in Amman

bike they called me an enemy. It was not until an old man, whom I considered an angel, helped me escape at night. In one of Pakistan's villages people started throwing stones at me."

Documenting or writing about exotic and exceptional events is part and parcel of any traveller's journey. These articles and documents are authentic sources written by someone who had intimate relations with people he visited.

"I had my lap-top with me on the jour-

ney, whenever I wanted to send an article to an Italian magazine I used to connect the computer with the battery of the bike and start writing," Muttoni continued.

After Jordan Muttoni has Africa on his agenda. No doubt more adventures await him in the black continent. "The more you travel, the more you open doors and different questions pop up, that is why I try to travel with simplicity of mind and listen more."

Iraqi-Jordanian talks intensify

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added that his country was ready to honor its commitments and repay these debts and it will continue to sell its oil to Jordan at discount prices and purchase of Jordanian products.

There is confusion about the real size of Iraqi debts to Jordan. Some estimates put them at \$400 million while others go as high as \$1.4 billion.

Mr Ahmed Al Nimri, an economic expert told *The Star* that "these debts do not exceed \$800 million. There is nothing to worry about as long as we are able to renew our protocol with Iraq."

Al Nimri stressed the importance to develop Jordanian-Iraqi economic ties, especially as Iraq prepares to remove international sanctions.

"The Iraqi demand to increase the price of its oil exports to Jordan is legitimate," Al Nimri said. "We were buying the crude at cheap prices while more than half is given to us free of charge. Iraq has the right to sell its oil at any price which serves its economy."

Some sources revealed that Iraqi officials are calling for a higher oil price in order to

increase the ceiling of the trade protocol to \$300 million. This protocol which was \$400 million in 1995 was cut to \$220 million and Iraq is seeking to increase it to enable it to pay part of its debts.

According to non-official figures Jordan's needs of crude oil during this year are estimated at 3,805,000 tons, 100,000 tons of liquefied natural gas, 115,000 tons of diesel and 800,000 tons of fuel oil.

Political groups unite

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saying that it was an establishment's tool to tame political parties.

However Shbeilat refuted recent press suggestions that there are major differences between him and Obiedat on the leadership of the opposition. "I respect the man. I am happy with Obiedat's presence in the opposition, and I hope other leaders will follow his steps."

But the independent Islamic figure who is at odds with the Muslim Brotherhood, strongly criticized the role of the Islamic

mists in the political battle in the country. He told *The Star* that "the leadership of the Muslim Brotherhood is using its members to serve the government's interest."

Leading Islamic figures said they are saddened by Shbeilat's comments. "I am sorry for what has been said by Shbeilat," said Hantza Mansour, spokesman of the IAF Islamic bloc in the Lower House. "His attempts to harm the Islamic movement does not serve any cause."

Despite these differences, observers believe the opposition is still in a strong position. One banner unites them: "No normalization with Israel before a comprehensive and just peace that guarantees the return of all Arab occupied land and rights."

Putting on a brave face, Faisal said, "we work with a true team spirit to mobilize practical moves regarding the current challenges," adding that "there is no time to debate our ideologies, because we have major differences in this respect."

Observers argue that both Shbeilat and Obiedat are promi-

Abdul Jabbar, a former government minister, said.

Lately, the Iraqi government decided to buy Jordanian pharmaceuticals at \$40-50 million with effect from this month. Earlier contracts of \$80 million were concluded between Iraqi officials and Jordanian companies to provide Iraq with foodstuffs and vegetable oil.

Nonetheless, analysts considered such sums as very low compared with transactions which Iraq had signed with Turkey and Dubai.

ment players in formulating a Jordanian popular strategy, especially when the official diplomacy has so far failed to influence changes in the Likud-led government after three months of manoeuvres.

"The government is doing what is right," said Mr Muasher. "It signed agreements and it has to honor them. But political parties are free to fight normalization with Israel to confront Netanyahu's extremism."

The anti-normalization process will continue, Mr Shbeilat said. "It is not because we wish that, but because the natural seeds are there, and because the peace treaty is against the interests of the *Umma*, and against the path of history."

"The opposition is strong enough to face any new developments, either on the Jordanian or Arab levels, and is ready to reactivate the opposition forces against the Zionist penetrations," said Mr Mansour. He added that the executive committee of the "Anti-Normalization Popular Conference" is coordinating with the centrist parties to officially join the opposition framework.

Peace process resumes as Arafat clinches Hebron deal

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rael was to have pulled out of Hebron last March. But former Prime Minister Shimon Peres delayed the redeployment after four suicide bombings by Islamic extremists opposed to the accord left more than 60 dead in Israel. The redeployment was further delayed by Israeli national elections in May that brought Netanyahu to power on a promise of moving more slowly in peacemaking and later by an outbreak of violence in Jerusalem.

US negotiators said the Hebron agreement adds details to general guidelines laid out in the interim accord and restates both sides' obligations. This latest document effectively shows how the interim accord would be put in effect. "There are no new elements," said a US official. "Each side wanted the other to recommit to reaffirm their commitment to implement what they already had agreed to."

Still, both sides have sought to portray the new deal as a victory: extremists from each side were certain to reject it as a dangerous compromise. Jewish extremists do not want the Palestinians to have any authority in a city that they say has belonged to Jews for more than 3,500 years. They say they will be insufficiently protected under this agreement and that Arab terrorists will kill them, just as they killed 67 Jewish residents of Hebron in riots in 1929. Palestinian radicals, meanwhile, want the Jewish settlers evicted and the Israeli military ousted from the Palestinian city that Israel captured from Jordan in 1967.

Netanyahu, who promised in his election campaign to provide Israelis "peace with security," has said the new accord will give greater protection to Hebron's Jewish settlers. He has pointed to new limits on Palestinian weapons and ap-

proval of joint patrols on hills overlooking the Jewish enclaves.

The Palestinians, who for weeks had refused to consider any changes to existing agreements, have sought to minimize the adjustments made. They emphasized their defeat of Israel's attempt to specify the right of its soldiers to re-enter Palestinian-controlled territory at will.

The two sides and their US negotiators met at this stark border crossing at 12:30 am Wednesday—a normal time for work for Arafat—and spent about two hours hammering out the final, stubborn details. Both sides had said the terms for the Hebron redeployment were wrapped up weeks ago and that they had been arguing in recent days over commitments beyond Hebron.

The principle changes in the accord stem from the combat between Palestinian police and Israeli soldiers last September in riots that erupted after Netanyahu approved the midnight opening of a tunnel door in Jerusalem's disputed Old City. More than 75 people died and hundreds were wounded in those clashes. Israel wanted to reduce the risk to Israeli soldiers of another such firefight.

The changes include: ■ Buffer zones. An "adjacent zone" of several hundred yards will be created between Jewish enclaves and Arab neighborhoods. Palestinian police may enter only in mobile units with Israeli soldiers. There were no buffer zones in the interim agreement.

■ Weapons limits. Palestinian police patrolling with Israelis may carry submachine guns, while the Israelis will carry longer-range M-16 semi-automatic rifles. No such restrictions existed before.

■ Building restrictions. There will be height limits on Palestinian buildings around Jewish settlements. (Jewish

buildings also will have height limits.) The previous accord did not include specifics.

■ High Ground. An Israeli-Palestinian patrol will cover ground overlooking Jewish enclaves; this plateau was under only Palestinian security before.

In another new arrangement, there will be special traffic rules and construction of a wall between Arab and Jewish areas on part of Shuhada Street, the main road running from the center of the city past the Jewish enclaves to an Arab vegetable market. Israel sought this to prevent sniping or car bombs aimed at Jewish settlers, who fear a repeat of the 1929 massacre. The street has been closed to Arab traffic since 1994, when Baruch Goldstein, a right-wing Jewish extremist, massacred about 30 Muslims at prayer at the Cave of the Patriarchs.

The accord is to be accompanied by a US "note for the record," laying out further commitments by each side. It reportedly says Israel will agree to more redeployments and to resume final talks on the future of Jewish settlements, the return of Palestinian refugees, control over East Jerusalem, borders of the Palestinian rule area and Palestinian statehood. Israel also agrees to negotiate to release Palestinian prisoners, allow construction of a Gaza Strip port and operation of an airport and to open a free passage between Gaza and the West Bank.

In turn, the Palestinians commit to rewrite parts of the Palestine Liberation Organization charter omitting any reference to the destruction of Israel. They agree to cease any operations outside of designated self-rule areas. They will abide with security measures, dismantling groups associated with terrorism and disarming those with illegal weapons. ■

High Court struggles to find answers in Clinton vs. Jones

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president and spouse had separated, could a child be told to wait for four years before a court could decide which parent would have custody?

"Or suppose the president owns a great parcel of land. It is bubbling up with poison and the neighbors are upset. The chief executive says he is immune to answering an environmental complaint?"

Bennett conceded that in an "exceptional" circumstance, the president could be forced to respond. He struggled, however, to define why those cases were exceptional and this one was not.

"The public interest in having the president unimpeded to perform his duties," contended US Solicitor Gen. Walter Dellinger, joining the argument on Clinton's behalf. "We believe any civil litigation involving the president should be postponed."

"I must say I don't find that very persuasive," replied Justice Antonin Scalia. "We see the president riding on horses, chopping firewood, playing golf. The notion that he doesn't have a minute to spare is not credible."

Even if the president is too busy to appear for a deposition or a trial, why should the depositions of witnesses be delayed, asked Justice Stephen Breyer. "How would that affect the operation of the presidency," he asked.

There is a problem of "fading memories," if the lawsuit is delayed for too long, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist noted.

After Clinton's two lawyers were questioned for 30 minutes, lawyer Gilbert K. Davis stepped to the lectern to present Jones' arguments and also was peppered by questions.

Suppose the president is told to appear in court, but is scheduled to go to a North Atlantic Treaty Organization meeting in Europe the same day, Scalia asked.

Davis conceded that the president should be excused if he says the court hearing would cause "an actual or imminent interference with his presidential duties."

Who is to decide when there is such an interference: the trial judge or the president? Scalia continued.

The president must "make the assertion" he is too busy, he replied. Breyer wondered whether the same applied to depositions by others. Suppose dozens of depositions are taken, and the statements raise questions about the president's behavior and veracity.

"Every statement is in the newspaper. And he says, 'I don't have time to respond to (media questions) to all this. It is interfering with my duties,'" Breyer continued. In that instance, could the president's lawyer stop the proceedings? he asked.

Yes, Davis replied, so long as the president made a "good faith assertion" that even depositions submitted by others created situations that occupied too much of his time.

Several justices looked perplexed by that answer.

Jones filed her lawsuit in May 1994, but it has been frozen from proceeding by Clinton's immunity claim. A judge in Little Rock and the US appeals court in St. Louis have ruled against the immunity claim, but Clinton's lawyers exercised their right to appeal to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court cannot look to the US Constitution or federal law to answer the question of whether the president is immune from civil suits. ■

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The British Embassy is located in Abdoun, near the Orthodox Club, Telephone 823100. The Post Office Box Number is 37. The consulate is open from Sunday to Thursday 08:30-12:00 hours.

CLASSIFIEDS

Social survey

● The University of Bologna in Italy is looking for every foreign students (non-Italian) who graduated in Bologna from 1945. An important social research has been started and a questionnaire will be sent to the graduates contacted. All foreign graduates are kindly asked to write their current address to: (Friends or relatives who know useful information are asked to write to: Osservatorio Statistico, Dipartimento di Scienze Statistiche "P. Fortunati", Università di Bologna, via Belle Arti 41, 40126 Bologna BO, ITALIA

Books

● Antiquarian books and old prints by David Roberts and W. H. Bartlett for sale. Views of Jerusalem, The Holy Land and Petra. Please call 664805.

New telecommunication equipment to boost telephone lines

AMMAN (Star)—The JTC telecommunications college is acting as a showcase for a new innovation in technology between 14-16 January. Digital Designs (partners of the London-based Jordanian Desert Telecom Co.) have been working closely with engineers, El Shrai'ah Jafar and Nidal Joudah, from The JTC telecommunications college to install a new equipment, developed by Pair-Cain Inc, that enables two normal telephone lines to be turned into 32 separate fibre quality phone lines.

This is achieved without installing any new lines underground by placing one piece of HDSL equipment at the exchange and a second at the local telephone pole or cabinet. The installation of this equipment is therefore very fast and means that the telephone company could install many new phone lines in hours. This could increase the demand for new lines for businesses and people's houses to be met far more quickly as well as being cost effective.

The HDSL technology is being demonstrated at the JTC Telecommunications College which has been working closely with Desert Telecom/Digital Designs. Abu Qayyas Abdel Fattah, the dean of the Telecommunications College said "We actively encourage international companies to use our college as a research center for new technologies as this helps Jordan's engineers to be prepared for developments in the next century. The demonstration will be to a variety of guests including many JTC and government departments as well as representatives from telephone companies in the region. ■

A peasant
■ This is a story of a peasant who lived in a village in the mountains of Lebanon. He was a simple man, but he had a great heart. He was always helping his neighbors, and he was very kind to everyone. He was a very good person, and he was loved by all who knew him.

The Israeli
■ This is a story of a man who was born in Israel. He was a very good person, and he was loved by all who knew him. He was a very good person, and he was loved by all who knew him.

Ministry of
■ This is a story of a man who was born in Israel. He was a very good person, and he was loved by all who knew him. He was a very good person, and he was loved by all who knew him.

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■ This is a story of a man who was born in Israel. He was a very good person, and he was loved by all who knew him. He was a very good person, and he was loved by all who knew him.

Quake b
■ This is a story of a man who was born in Israel. He was a very good person, and he was loved by all who knew him. He was a very good person, and he was loved by all who knew him.

Military
■ This is a story of a man who was born in Israel. He was a very good person, and he was loved by all who knew him. He was a very good person, and he was loved by all who knew him.

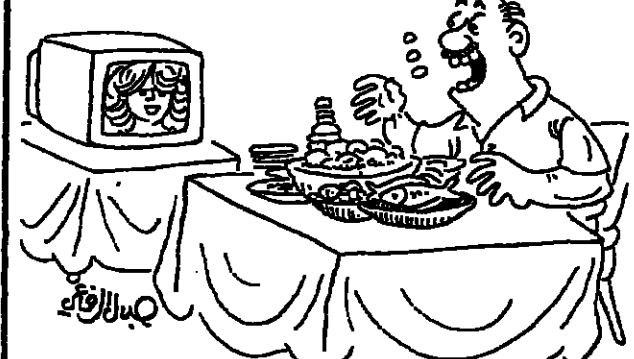
JORDAN

W E E K



An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar

It's a cool Ramadan—short days, many feasts and tens of satellite channels!



A peasant party in Jordan

■ This is not a unique idea. For peasant parties have been formed all over the world at one time or another; in fact Jordan is a late comer. But yes, a peasant party will be registered during Ramadan. What is interesting is that it will include quite a number of Lower House deputies such as Fawzi Tumeih, the present chairman of the Lower House's Arab and International Affairs Committee. Abdallah Akhu Rusheida, Rateb Al Soud and Khalid Abd Al Nabbi. With such names, you would think that it is an establishment party, but you would be wrong, one of its founders stresses. Shihadeh Abu Baqar says that it is a social and peasant party that concentrates on agriculture, the rural countryside and the Badia, those parts of the Kingdom which are less well off.

The Israeli trade fair

■ Some may say one good thing about the Israeli trade fair, that it united them from far across the political divide. About 3000 people gathered at last Friday's sermon at a mosque one kilometer away from where the trade was being held in Marj Al Hamam. Naturally, the road was closed to cater for the people who assembled to listen to the sermon. It included Lower House deputies, trade unionists and members of political parties. The three-hour sermon was designed to deliver a forceful message that the fair was not welcomed in the country. As for the Israeli trade exhibition, it ended peacefully last Tuesday. Although many are branding it as a flop since no more than 30 Israeli companies turned up, the organizers feel that in the end they got what they want and staged the four-day expo. But not so fast. Others argue that while they may let the show go on, it was a cry in the wilderness, since it was poorly attended and many of those invited failed to turn up.

Ministry of Labor gets tough

■ It seems that we don't have accurate figures regarding the number of foreign workers in the country. This would be the implication of the comments made by the Ministry of Labor, Dr Abdel Hafiz Al Shakhaneh recently. He told the Planning Council in the ministry that it is imperative to be stringent with foreign workers in the Kingdom and to make sure that they are not employed in jobs which can be done by Jordanians. He added that this is in line with law. A fair enough view you may argue and one that is practiced by other countries. But the council went a step further than that. It is now forming a working group from all the Labor Directorates in the Kingdom to provide a complete study of the state of foreign workers, statistics, type of work and their status situation. Another good idea, one may think, but why didn't the ministry take this initiative right from the start.



Al Shakhaneh

What a budget

■ The Greater Amman Municipality must be one of the biggest public corporations in the country. Its total revenues for 1996 reached a massive JD 59.9 million. However, this is slightly below 1995 figure which totaled about JD 61 million. The municipality has been very active in the last year. This year it will rename quite a lot of the neighborhoods, gardens and streets in Amman. Meanwhile the anti-corruption directorate is taking eight GAM employees to court for embezzlement. The employees who work in the Works and Machinery Dep't., in the municipality are said to have embezzled up to JD 4 million.

... And Al Abbadi for Parliament

■ The Mayor of the Greater Amman Municipality, Dr Mumdouh Al Abbadi, could be standing for Parliament in the next election. If he does, then it is almost certain that he will quit his present job as a mayor. Furthermore, political punters are saying that Dr Abbadi will likely fight for one of the Zarqa seats, since he is very popular with many people in that part of the world. Mr Abbadi has done a lot to the Amman governorate. If he does go then he will be remembered for making the capital city more greener.



Al Abbadi

Quake but no problem

■ Last week another quake was registered in the north west of the country and Israel. But not to worry we are told. This earthquake, which registered 5.8 on the richter scale, was the aftereffect of the quake that hit Cyprus last November. It is true, however, the last quake was no more than a twinge since it occurred in the Mediterranean. However, people as far as Al Sero, west of Amman did feel the quake.

Military service to end unemployment

■ Military conscription was on our doorstep, so we thought, then it wasn't, then it was. This story has been circulating in the news at least for the last two months. Now we are told from a top level source from the Prime Minister's Office that military service is well on the way. The story was splashed by the weekly Al Urdun. Quoting the source, the newspaper said that military conscription was a way to end unemployment in the country and is being actively considered by the Prime Minister, Abdel Karim Al Kabariti. This is part of a national strategy to get people working again. The idea would be for the military conscripts to join the national economy through development and industrial projects that would be set up. According to the source the conscripts would be paid a reasonable price for such work. He said this will fight against poverty and unemployment.

Prince opens conference on Jordan Rift Valley

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan opened the meetings of the Jordan Rift Valley Development Committee (JRVC) which started at the Dead Sea, Tuesday. The Prince praised the meeting which comes at a stage of "relative optimism" in the region. The meeting comes under the umbrella of the trilateral economic committee which was established in 1993 in Washington between Jordan, Israel and the US. The Prince said it was a good omen to hold the JRVC in an atmosphere of relative political movement with high hopes for a breakthrough in Palestinian-Israeli talks. He said it is essential to develop the Jordan Rift Valley as one that will lead to progress and prosperity. The Prince added that he is optimistic about the future of the region and said that there is a commitment on all parties, including the Palestinians, to develop this area of the world.



Deputies express anger at New Year celebrations

AMMAN (Star)—The New Year celebrations created quite a stir among Lower House deputies. Islamic deputies were particularly angry with Jordan Television for transmitting live the New Year celebrations from different Arab capitals and from different hotels in Amman. JTV quite simply showed how people were enjoying themselves.

However, Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies reacted sharply, devoting all the Lower House session that was held last Sunday, to attack JTV for their transmission of the celebrations and the government for allowing the airing of such celebrations arguing that it goes against religion, tradition and the morals of the Jordanian society.

With the attendance of Prime Minister Abdel Karim Al Kabariti, and the rest of the government, they listened patiently to attacks by the Islamists.

Ahmad Al Kofahi, IAF deputy, said that Jordan Television was guilty of "debauchery which we should fight." He pointed out that it is certainly not entertainment.

Next came Abdel Munem Abu Zunt who was equally scathing. He said that "the print and television media have waged a devastating war on morals and values during the Christmas and New Year celebrations." He added that this was done in a "cheap way that Jesus Christ and every Muslim and Christian would exonerate himself from."

He said that the government does not abide by its official media policy, the Constitution and the law.

He pointed out the Jordan Television "was a mere imitator" which diverted from the "originality and belonging to the nation" and does not abide to the Islamic calendar.

He added that JTV insulted the morals of Jordanians as Muslims and Arabs portraying them as "dancing lustful people" who spent the New Year Eve in hotels and night clubs.

Similarly Hamam said was vociferous in his comments. He said JTV had no right in airing the New Year celebrations since it is a public corporation and not a private one. However, he said this did not stop them from showing the

"depravity" and "vice" of the New Year celebration, "something that goes against (Islamic) jurisprudence and religion."

This was really strong stuff from the Islamic deputies, something that was not too surprising. What is strange however, is that their opinions were also broadcast at length by Jordan Television on Sunday night.

Cynical analysts would argue that JTV took it upon itself to transmit the views of the Lower House deputies even though they were criticizing the public corporation.

This was done, some say, to dampen the criticism that JTV has been receiving for the last couple of months from opposition deputies. Opposition deputies have been arguing that Jordan Television has not been giving them the proper time on air. Consequently their point of

views were muffled.

But this was certainly not the case at last Sunday's session and others may argue that it disproves their claim.

At the end of the session, Prime Minister Kabariti was given the floor to reply. He wouldn't be put off by the criticism and on that particular issue.

He said that "the government regards entertainment as a right of every citizen." He said that the "government's commitments to the ethics and values exists and is based upon standards which it creates and not anybody else's."

Kabariti's statement angered Islamic deputy Dr Ibrahim Zeid Al Kilani who shouted that Kabariti's statement encourages "debauchery."

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Jordanian-Italian cultural agreement concluded recently

AMMAN (Star)—In their attempt to boost cultural exchange, Italy and Jordan concluded last week the Executive Programme of the Cultural Agreement for 1997, 1998 and 1999. The agreement was signed at the Ministry of Planning between the Ambassador of Italy Dr Francesco Cerulli, and Mr Nabil Ammani, the general secretary of the Ministry of Planning.

The agreement stressed cooperation in the different cultural, educational and scientific fields. As to the educational part of the agreement, the two countries will encourage contacts and direct cooperation between their universities and other institutions of higher education and science. This will include exchanging professors and researchers. Also encouraging the teaching of the Italian

language and literature in Jordanian universities and schools is a major constituent of the agreement.

The Italian side shall award scholarships to undergraduate and graduate Jordanian students in the academic year 1996-1997 in the fields of science, technology, language, archaeology and the humanities. Also, Jordan will grant scholarships for Italian students in the academic year 1996-1997 for language teaching, humanities and archaeology. More coordination will be focused on exchanging experiences on school education and social development.

As to the cultural side, the two countries are encouraging performances by professional or amateur artists in music, theater or the other forms of the performing arts.

Jordanian is currently organizing an archaeological exhibition in Rome to be held in the fall of 1997. This is part of an effort to promote the cultural heritage of Jordan. There will also be cooperation between experts from Museums, archives and libraries in the two countries.

The two parties expressed their satisfaction with the existing cooperation in the field of archaeology and restoration and their willingness to continue the support given to Italian archaeological missions already working in Jordan. Restoration works will continue at sites like Makawar, Jerash, Petra, wadi Rum and Ajlun.

Regarding scientific cooperation there will be a continuous coordination between the scientific research centers of the universities of the two countries. As to youth and sport concerns, the two parties consider the promotion of exchange of sport publications, texts, and audio-visuals on various sport disciplines. Also, the Olympic Committees of the two countries are to exchange technical and teaching publications and audio visual material.

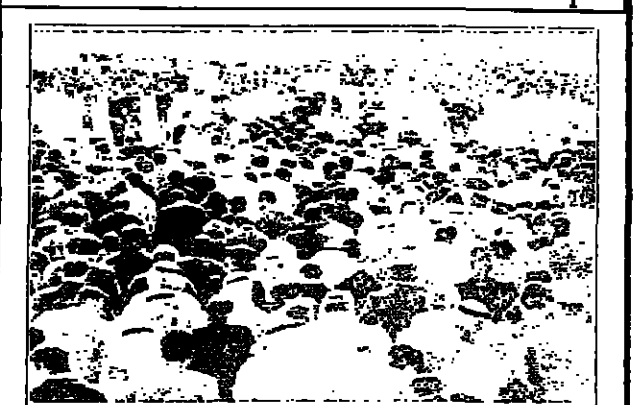
Other aspects of the agreement included the exchange of information and on different cultural, political, economic and social aspects. In the field of health, scientific research centers will be exchanging information and probably experts.

The agreement cited financial and general provisions related to the implementation of the previous points.

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People & Politics



Friday's sermon close to the Israeli fair attract many from all walks of life

Opposition's moment of glory

■ The mass protests against the holding of an Israeli trade fair in Amman last week have brought together anti-peace camp from all political shades in a rare moment of unity. The question now is whether this united front will go on and whether it will influence the political stage in the future. Looking back at last week's events one can come up with some conclusions. Demonstrators numbered between 3000 to 6000 but not more.

Does this reflect the true size of the opposition? There were some emotional moments, especially when anti-riot police had to intervene to prevent public disorder. But overall the event was peaceful and organized. The opposition camp had made its point and was able to send a strong message. But would this change realities on the ground? It is highly unlikely.

Government reaction to the protests was careful and calculated. The protesters even received some airtime on the state-run TV. Playing along has helped release public anger with as little cost as possible. And with Jordanian-Israeli relations not at their best—who knows? The protests may have actually helped rather than embarrassed the government which is trying to influence the Netanyahu cabinet into considering its position from the on-going negotiations.

The protests have also highlighted the rise of former Prime Minister Ahmad Obiedat's political fortunes. He is now considered by many as the leader of the opposition camp overtaking other symbols such as Laila Shbailat and some Islamist figures. Obiedat, who is non-partisan, represents the common denominator in a politically confused environment rife with Islamists, leftists, pan-Arabists and right-wing nationalists. But his rise to the helm could prove to be a temporary one.

The Israeli fair gave him a chance to rally support from political parties and public associations. But the fair has ended and with it the cause for unity. Without a fixed or clear agenda, the opposition camp may soon disintegrate or face internal problems. Naturally the government's invisible hand will be felt moving here and there within the opposition camp itself. It has done so in the past with considerable success.

The strength of the opposition will be resting on prospects of an improving economy and living conditions of Jordanians. Many viewed 1996 as a year of dashed hopes and mounting frustrations. This year does not look any better. In fact, if peace and its dividends remain elusive there is every chance that the opposition will thrive on increasing public despair. Our trade ties with Iraq, relations with the Palestinians, implementation of our peace treaty with Israel with regards to water, trade and others will determine when and if our economic performance will get any better.

Iraq's vendetta: Oil-for-Kabariti?

■ Not much surfaced from the brief visit of Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tarek Aziz to Jordan this week and his meeting with Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti. Mr Aziz, whose meeting with Mr Kabariti was said to have been scheduled at Jordan's request, assured Jordanians that Iraq will continue to supply Jordan with its needs of Iraqi oil the same way it had been doing since 1990.

Jordan imports all of its oil from Iraq, about 4.5 million tons of crude annually. About half of that oil is given to Jordan free of charge and the rest is sold at preferential rates, about \$15 a barrel. In addition to this agreement, the two countries have a \$250 million commercial protocol under which Iraq imports Jordanian goods and services. Jordan and Iraq have been negotiating in recent weeks to renew the agreements, but it is not clear to date whether Iraq will be renewing the oil agreement under the present conditions.

A recent visit by ministers of finance and energy failed to get an Iraqi stamp of approval. Instead, Baghdad told the Jordanian officials that they should be ready for a new terms after a three month transitional period. There are speculations that the Iraqis will be willing to sell some of their oil at international prices or at least at higher rates. If this is confirmed it could spell disaster for Jordan's 1997 budget with about \$350 million needed to pay for that oil.

But the Iraqis are keeping us guessing. A second visit to Baghdad by ministers of trade and transport was postponed until after Aziz's visit to Amman. Minister of Transport Nasser Lawzi was unable to confirm the details of the new agreement. Mr Aziz made it clear that Iraq is committed to settling its debts to Jordan, currently standing at \$1.4 billion. But he also hinted that Iraq was obtaining goods and services from Jordan in exchange for the "free" oil it was giving to Jordan.

The tabloid press is already talking of an "Iraqi vendetta" the price of which could be Kabariti's job. It is no secret that this government has not been sympathetic to the Iraqi regime and that political relations between Baghdad and Amman are not at their best. The new formula of "oil-for-Kabariti" may be in the offing if not now, then at a later stage especially as Jordan finds itself in need of the Iraqi market and its expanding prospects.

So far the Iraqi position has been business-like and not confrontational. This is exactly why Jordan, which has been getting economic preferential treatment from Iraq, should be worried. Without cheap Iraqi oil, Jordan will have no option but to buy its oil needs from the international market at international prices. The Saudis have been willing to reopen the Tapline to supply Jordan with its oil needs provided that Jordan pays in advance and at market rates.

The Star
Tel: 652380
Fax: 648298

The Activities of the National Music Conservatory during Ramadan

The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre

- Sat., Jan. 18 Russian Duo: Constantine Orbellian (piano) and Maria Safariants (violin) JD 7
- Wed., Jan. 22 Russian Duo and the Orchestra of the National Music Conservatory (Mohammad Othman Sidqi, conductor)
- Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No.1 and Beethoven: Violin Concerto JD 7
- Under the Patronage of H.E. the French Ambassador Mr. Bernard Bajolet
- Sat., Jan. 25 Philippe Giusiano in a Chopin Recital JD 6

Hotel Intercontinental - Jordan

- Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein.
- Tues., Feb. 4 Lutfi Boushnaq and his Ensemble in an evening of traditional and authentic Arab music JD 75, 50 and 25

Tickets available at:

- Alahla Abela Superstore, tel. 688491
- Alissar Flowers, tel. 827695
- Babiche, tel. 661322
- Cafe Moka, tel. 856285
- Hotel Intercontinental, Jordan, tel. 641361
- The French Cultural Center, tel. 637009
- Safeway, tel. 685311
- The Royal Cultural Center, tel. 689026
- The National Music Conservatory, tel. 637620

Business scene

■ The Jordan International Industrial Co., is now established at a capital of JD 2 million. Its shareholders include the Jordan International Insurance Co., the Industrial Development Bank, the Social Security Corp., and some Jordanian and Arab businessmen. The company plans to carry out various projects including an organic fertilizer industrial project, dry green and concentrate animal feeders and a processing glass sand. About 200 new job opportunities would be created immediately. Its fertilizer production plants will be in Zarqa and in the south of the Kingdom.

■ Arab Potash has generated net profits of JD 140 million last year. The company's export revenues totalled \$170 million in 1996. It plans to expand productivity to 2.25 million tons over the next three years to generate export earnings to \$220 million before the end of the century. Total costs of the expansion scheme is \$100 million. The company's sales in 1995 rose by 16.3% compared with 1994. Arab Potash exports its production to many markets such as India, China, Europe, Canada, Latin America and the US.

■ Total production of the Jordan Cement Factories Co., recorded an increase of 3%, in 1996 to reach 3,512,190, 512 tons compared with 3,414,812 tons in 1995. The company's exports also rose by 35% in 1996 to reach 951,215 tons against 707,850 tons. This is due to its conclusive marketing strategy to attract more clients to buy cement and the high quality of its cement. However, domestic sales of cement went down last year by 3.6% to reach 2,582,478 tons compared with 2,680,581 in 1995.

■ Madaba is witnessing an economic boom in its commercial and industrial fields. This is thanks to its Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The chamber serves as a liaison between the merchants and the Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and financial institutions in Amman. There are also 26 national factories that have greatly contributed to putting an end to unemployment in the governorate. The Madaba chamber has 2200 members.

Foreign Exchange

Wednesday, 15 January

	Buy JD	Sell JD
US\$	0.7080	0.7100
£	1.1983	1.2043
DM	0.4540	0.4563
SP	0.5229	0.5255
FRF	0.1344	0.1351
YEN	0.6134	0.6165
ITL	0.4048	0.4064
DMG	0.0462	0.4642

Inter-Arab trade below expectations, argues expert

AMMAN (Star)—In his working paper given to the first Conference for Arab Businessmen, Dr Jassim Al Mannae, the executive chairman of the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) said that inter-Arab trade is far below expectations. For many years, inter-Arab trade has suffered from a series of defects arising from the tendency of some Arab countries to adopt the slogans of self-sufficiency and the benefits from international markets.

Seven Arab countries owe Iraq \$1.4 billion

SOURCES AT THE Iraqi Ministry of Finance revealed that seven Arab countries owe Iraq debts estimated at \$1.4 billion. This sum includes loans provided by Iraq, oil exports, bank deposits and profits of joint Arab projects. These states are Saudi Arabia, Syria, Bahrain, Kuwait, Somalia, United Arab Emirates and Egypt. Iraq disclosed last October that its frozen assets in these countries since 1990 (the Gulf war) total \$1.3 billion. But the increase in their debts resulted from the accumulated interest ratio on these debts.

Also, Iraqi deposits in the European and American banks were frozen since 1990. Baghdad had hopelessly, and many times called for the release of its deposits to buy humanitarian foodstuffs to reduce the sufferings of its people because of the UN sanctions.

states," Al Mannae said. However, he continued, despite these efforts the level of trade exchange between Arab states is too low compared with the size of Arab external trade.

Al Mannae attributed this to the weakness of the productive and export base. "The production criteria in the Arab states lack variety, if we exclude oil and other raw materials, other products prove to be weak," he added.

In the light of the gradual movement from controlled and directed economies in the Arab world, to more liberalized economies, Dr Al Mannae expects inter-Arab trade to flourish and move on the right track.

Many Arab countries, particularly Jordan and Egypt, have moved successfully in their economic reform programs and have gone far in giving the private sector a greater role in the process of development.

In addition, economic strategies in some, if not most Arab countries, are tending to move towards becoming affiliates to international organizations

such as the European partnership and the World Trade Organization (WTO). This, according to Dr Al Mannae, revises the need for the emergence of regional Arab blocs to face global challenges.

Joining WTO and other organizations will certainly be a motivation towards openness and the liberalization of external trade, leading also to increasing the volume of inter-Arab trade exchange and establishing free zones in the region.

What is also promising for pan-Arab trade-exchange is the increasing concern in Arab countries to enhance the infrastructure which is essential for trade sectors covering education, health, banking, hotels, industry, insurance, financial services, freight and marketing.

However, Arab countries are willing to facilitate procedures to encourage free trade. These are two-fold, on the administrative level and/or customs legislations. Dr Al Mannae pointed out.

These measures will also enhance import and export activities. Inter-Arab trade increased by eight percent, but this is very low compared to the growth of international trade estimated at 19 percent by the end of 1995. The growth average of inter-Arab exports recorded a stable ratio at 10 percent of the total Arab external trade. However, Dr Al Mannae added that inter-Arab trade increased in 1995 to record 34 percent, in Tunisia 30 percent and in Yemen 12 percent. Agricultural products (vegetable, fruit and meat) come first of inter-Arab exports at 54 percent-74 percent. Then comes the exports of fuels, metals, iron and steel products, and petrochemical products ranging from 20 percent to 60 percent. The obstacles facing inter-Arab trade vary from little obstacles to difficulties related to customs procedures, transport and crossing measures, lack of data, and the insufficient growth of infrastructure services. Dr Al Mannae said. But, in the light of the tendency towards better trade exchange levels among Arab countries, some of these countries encourage the emergence of establishments to guarantee exports as it is the case in Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Oman. In addition, some specialized banks are taking the initiative to finance exports as it is the case in Egypt and Jordan (The Export and Finance Bank). The establishment of the programme to finance Arab trade is set up within the context targeted at securing the infrastructure services that are essential for boosting inter-Arab trade, Dr Al Mannae continued.

Jordanian touristic sector provides promising incentives for investors

AMMAN (Star)—Since the peace treaty was concluded between Jordan and Israel three years ago, the touristic sector witnessed ups and downs. This is particularly so in the promotion of touristic sites in Jordan. Yet any further achievements in this regard were blocked by the hardline policy adopted by the Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu. However, official sources estimate the volume of touristic investments in Jordan over the last 1995-1996 at \$500 million.

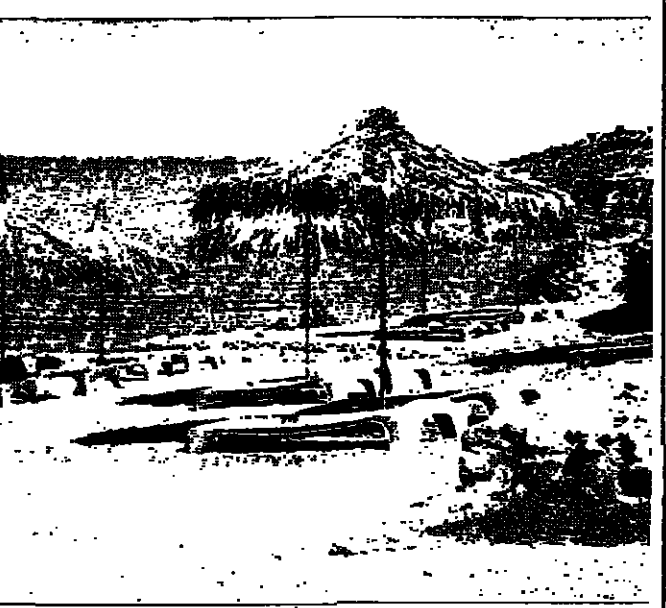
Most of these are Arab and foreign investments. There are 45 hotels with 500 rooms under construction. Jordan is exerting great effort to develop the touristic sector through organizing its administration and setting realistic touristic strategies on the basis of developing touristic legislations.

In addition to the obstacles arising from the setbacks in the peace process, the touristic sector suffers from other difficulties related to financing and high interest rates on loans together with restrictions to guarantee the requirements to obtain banking facilities.

In addition, there is the shortage of cadres and fully trained technical manpower that is qualified to work in the hotels and catering sector. Although there are approximately 5800 archaeological sites in Jordan, it is difficult to make land available because of its highly historical nature, particularly those in the northern heights, Dead Sea and the Jordan Valley.

Besides Petra and Aqaba, these areas have fascinating touristic and archaeological sites. Experts state that the number of tourists arriving in Jordan will reach two million within the next two years. This also implies that the number of touristic projects, especially hotels will see a noticeable progress.

The rooms of the five-star hotels will rise from 1036 to 2000 by 1999. Investors call on the government to provide Arab and foreign tourists with



more facilities in getting visas to visit Jordan. Among the huge touristic projects is Hayat/Amman five-star hotel, which is being built by the Zira Investment (Holding) Co., at a total cost of \$50 million. There are also two hotels, Sheraton and Al Shmeisani (three-stars) that are being built by the International Hotels and Commercial Markets Co., which was established at a JD 25 million capital. Other hotels are also under construction. These include the Hilton, Four Seasons and the Holiday Inn.

The labor force in the touristic sector in Jordan is estimated at 9000, and official sources anticipate that the revenues from this sector last year have reached \$750 million. Investors in tourism are calling on the government to embark on measurements to activate investments in this sector, through increasing tax and customs exemptions and establish a specialized bank to finance touristic investment (as is the case with the Export and Finance Bank). Also others call to establish academic and professional specialized institutions in hotel training and touristic services.

Reviving the course of the touristic sector requires the development of a tourism infrastructure. ■

Jordanian-European partnership agreement faces difficulties

AMMAN (Star)—Despite the fact that Jordan and the European Union (EU) have achieved progress in their negotiations to conclude Jordanian-EU partnership agreement that was to be signed by the end of last year, sources at the Ministry of Planning said that the signing was postponed.

According to the agreement, partnership has to be signed soon between the EU and the Middle East countries, among them Jordan, to establish a free trade zone by the year 2010. Hence, Jordanian industrial and agricultural products will be allowed to enter European countries free from customs tariffs.

However, there are still sticking issues making it difficult to sign the agreement this month. These would have to be settled first.

The EU for instance calls on Jordan to shoulder the responsibility for Arab refugees who pass through the Kingdom on their way to Europe, by giving them Jordanian passports. This demand is rejected by Jordanian officials regarding it as a violation of Jordan's sovereignty.

The other thorny issue is the list of Jordan's agricultural commodities that are allowed to enter Europe. While Jordan requests the EU to expand the number of items to benefit its agricultural sector, EU members reject this request, arguing that it would threaten their agricultural interests in the region.

The EU also calls on Jordan to sign the Treaty of Intellectual Property Rights within five years of signing the partnership agreement (as stipulated in the World Trade Organization agreement). Observers believe that such a period is insufficient because Jordanian industrial products need more time to cope with the new situation.

Sources at the Ministry of Planning expect the two sides to meet shortly to discuss these pending issues and find out an outlet for the dispute.

However, Mr Khaled Al-

Madadha, state minister for foreign affairs later denied there is any delay in signing the partnership agreement between Jordan and the EU.

On the contrary, he added that the two sides are moving on successfully, pointing out that Dr Rima Khalaf, minister of planning had earlier stressed that the signing would be in mid-1997.

Similarly, the head of the European Delegation in Amman, Yves Gazzo stressed that the agreement is in its final stages and will be signed within few months. ■

First Islamic Investment Bank established in Bahrain at \$150 million

AMMAN (Star)—The first Islamic Investment Bank has just been established in Bahrain. It has a paid-up capital of \$150 million. The bank is a subsidiary of the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC).

The new bank seeks to become integrated into the mainstream banking operations in Bahrain. However, being Islamic in character, the bank aims to introduce new fiscal and investment tools that are aligned with its principles.

Sheikh Ahmed Abdul Latif, the corporations executive director, together with a full team, has taken the initiative to put together a detailed strategy to the corporation's 1997 agenda.

The corporation is seeking to maintain its position in global banking by modernizing its organizational structure to cope with requirements of the world markets, besides focusing on traditional banking services.

In this respect, the new strategy is tar-

geted at establishing the first banking fund for investing in stocks of public shareholding companies which are listed on Gulf stock exchanges.

The fund's capital is about \$25 million. Economic observers point out that over the last two years the ABC succeeded in overcoming external challenges and difficulties. It is considered by the American Treasury as the most successful bank in the Arab world.

Shareholders rights in the corporation exceeded \$1.5 billion and it has managed to face such challenges by establishing sound centres in the Arab countries.

The ABC has 30 branches Corporation distributed all over the world, in addition to its subsidiaries, among them is the Spanish Atlantic Bank, the International Bank of the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) in Britain, the ABC-bank in Jordan, and International Bank of Asia in Hong Kong.

■

Unemployment increases among civil engineers

A STUDY conducted by the Royal Scientific Society on the needs of the labor market for engineering graduates revealed that since the mid-1980s the average rate of unemployment rose to eight percent among civil engineers. This is attributed to the sharp increase in graduates. It rose by 12 percent, from 6497 engineers in 1980 to 35068 in 1995.

Students were interested in civil engineering rather than other branches from 1980 to 1985. However, this interest declined between 1985-1995 when students preferred to study electrical, mechanical, architectural and chemical engineering.

Such a phenomenon resulted from the increasing demand on these specializations in the labor market while this demand was too low in civil engineering.

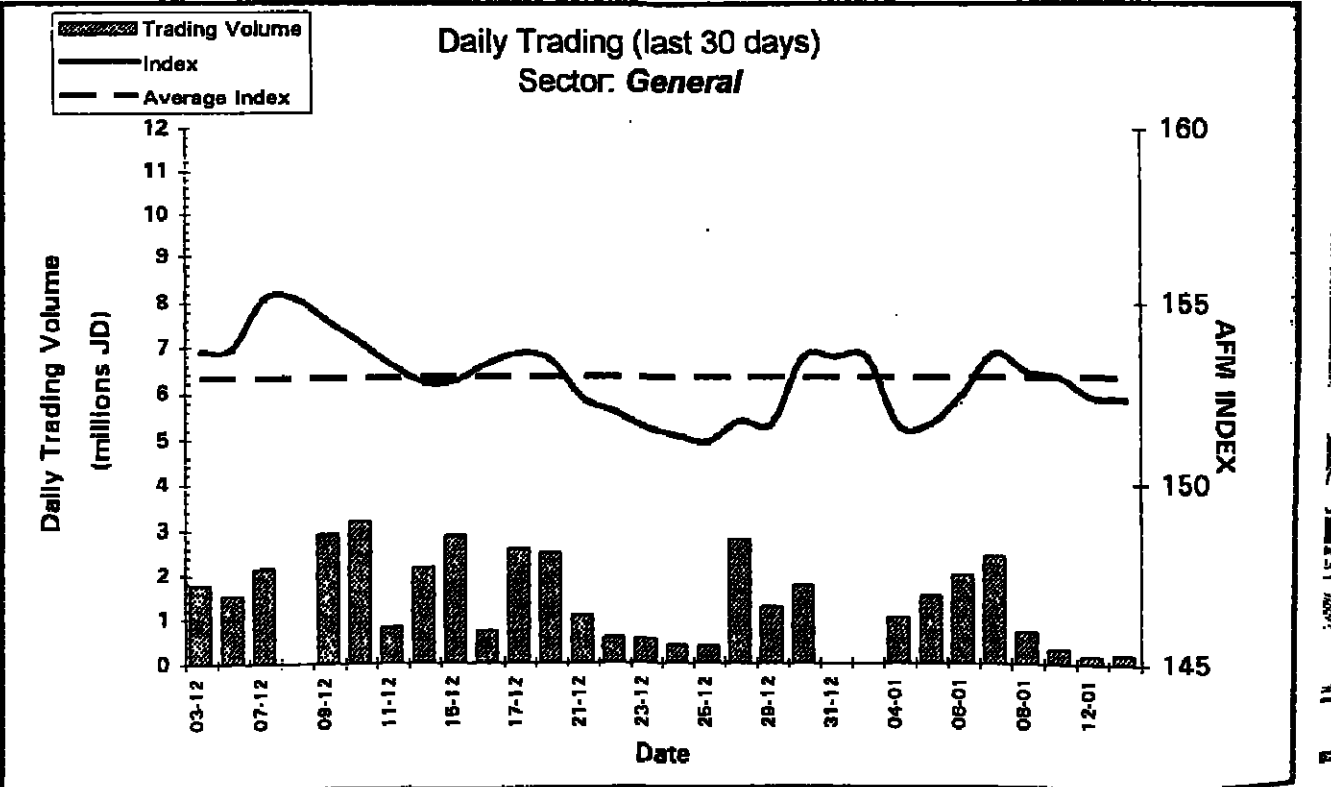
Working engineers were 23,000 in 1995, while the unemployed were 2000. This is in addition to the 10,000 engineers outside Jordan.

By the year 2005, the study expected a surplus in engineers reaching to 52759. In the first rank will come the architectural engineers who will account for the highest growth ratios followed by electrical, mechanical, chemical and civil engineers. ■

MARKET WATCH 11-14 January

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ Poultry & Slaughter House 4.55 ↑ Arab Electrical 3.85 ↑ Paper & Cardboard 3.85 ↑ International Trade 5.77 ↑ Namco 5.66 ↑ The Pearl 5.48 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ Union Land Development 4.76 ↑ Paper & Cardboard Factories 2.78 ↑ United Engineering 2.44 ↑ Central Trade 5.66 ↑ Arab Hotels 5.05 ↑ National Lines 5.04 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ Arab Medical Appliances 3.17 ↑ National Industries 2.94 ↑ International Trade 2.04 ↑ Kuwait Investment 5.04 ↑ Jordan Tourism and Hotels 3.03 ↑ Housing Bank 2.92 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ Arab Pharmaceutical Center 5.07 ↑ Arab Pharmaceuticals 2.86 ↑ Nayzak Moulds 5.77 ↑ Jordan Printing 5.00 ↑ Ta'dino 4.64
General Price Index 152.88	152.350	152.320	153
Trade Volume 373740	258421	338900	559667
Stock Volume 317716	292732	383685	634921
Highest Traded Stocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ United Land Transport 38336 ↑ Arab Investments 62.307 ↑ Middle East Complex 84.511 		



Palestine Post

Output in PNA areas plummets

■ The Palestinian Monetary Authority revealed that Palestinian domestic output declined sharply from \$2.161 billion in 1995 to \$1.633 billion in 1996. This is due to the Israeli blockade of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The 118 days of blockade have cost the Palestinian economy a loss of more than \$1.2 billion. A lot of workers were unable to get to their jobs. Per capita annual income in the West Bank and Gaza was estimated at \$652, which is very close to the official poverty level, that is \$650 per capita. The deficit in the budget of the Palestinian National Authority rose from \$75 million in 1995 to \$195 million last year. The situation is likely to continue to worsen unless something drastic happens. What is needed is not only for Israel to allow Palestinians in its markets, but massive doses of outside financial injections which the PNA has already been promised.

First Arab satellite against normalization

■ A group of experts are presently conducting feasibility studies and technical preparations to establish the first Arab satellite station to fight the process of normalization with Israel. It is argued that Israel has slowly been creeping into the Arab world.

Informed sources expect this station to become operational either this year or next year. Any Arab anywhere from the Gulf to Morocco can receive directly the station's programs without any obligation to pay any contributions to the station.

This step came as a recommendation from the general conference to combat normalization with Israel, which has concluded its sessions earlier in Yemen.

Full plans are already underway to establish a location for the station together with its permanent technical staff, according to the Assistant Secretary General of the Arab Lawyers Union, Abdul Azeem Al Maghribi, who is also the rapporteur of the conference to combat normalization with Israel.

Al Maghribi added that according to the recommendations of Sana' (Yemen) conference, the next meeting will be convened in Cairo next 8 March. In addition to establishing the station, participants will discuss issuing an Arab periodical magazine that calls for resisting all attempts to normalize ties with Israel. Furthermore, they will tackle the possibility of establishing a data center according to the latest technological developments. The center will specialize in collecting data and preparing studies that can acquaint the Arab popular movement with "Israeli colonial plans and means to resist them."

If set up, the satellite station will be the first of its kind to fight normalization with Israel on a global level.

Enormous Israeli immigration to US

■ More and more people are leaving Israel to settle in the United States according to latest reports. The Israeli daily, *Yediot Ahronot* stated that there are 5000 people leaving Israel each year to settle in New York. However, there are much more Israelis who are settling in that city illegally. This movement has become worrisome and a topic of much discussion by Israel's decision-makers. From 1990 to 1994, 20,709 Israelis have immigrated from Israel to the US. In contrast, the number of Israeli immigrants to the US during the 1980s, did not exceed 85,000. Sources at the American Immigration Dept., say that between 1980-1994 about 50,000 Israelis have arrived in the USA and resided there illegally.

PNA denies Tel Aviv bombing

■ Palestinian President Yasser Arafat brushed off claims that a Palestinian group was responsible for the Tel Aviv bombings last week. However, a Popular Liberation Front spokesman said the bombings were a response for the recent attacks on Palestinians in Hebron. However, he denied that his group was responsible for the bombings.

Israel's border guards under scrutiny for violent acts

By Rebecca Trounson
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM—It is known simply as "the videotape." And in this small, self-critical and image-conscious nation, it has become an infamous and instantly familiar symbol of injustice and oppression.

The 45-minute tape, filmed by a Palestinian in a nearby apartment, shows two Israeli border guards beating and humiliating six Palestinian laborers caught trying to enter Israel without work permits. When Israeli television aired the tape in November, Israelis and Palestinians alike reacted with shock and anger as they watched guards beat the men to do pushups, kicked one in the head and sat, bouncing, on the head of another.

The heading, in a remarkable parallel to the Rodney King case, was aired here repeatedly and broadcast worldwide, creating an immediate uproar. Yet it is only the latest in a series of incidents that have raised concerns about the training, education and racial attitudes of those assigned to protect Israel from intrusion at a time of rising tensions with the Palestinians and the Arab world.

That border police violence against Palestinians is growing without question. The reasons,

though, are in dispute.

The Guard is a 9,000-strong paramilitary force that controls the checkpoints separating Israel from areas under the rule of Palestinian National Authority, and backs up the Israeli army and regular police in disputed areas.

According to figures released by the guard's commanding officers, incidents involving undue force against Palestinians jumped 21 percent in 1996. Recent cases have also tended to be more severe and referred for criminal prosecution more often than in the past, said a Justice Ministry official charged with investigating the incidents.

For years, Palestinians, and some Israelis, have asserted that members of the Border Guard routinely assault and degrade Arabs. Privately and in testimony to human rights groups, Palestinians have recounted numerous instances of verbal and physical abuse.

Palestinian officials see the current escalation as an indirect result of the election last May that brought to power Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and a rightist-religious coalition government that has slowed the peace process with the Palestinians.

"We are not saying that Bibi Netanyahu told them to be tough with Arabs and beat them," said Ahmad Tibi, a senior adviser to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. "But we believe

that the policeman on the ground is seeing a green light from this government for a harder line against Arabs, and interpreting that in this way."

Israeli government officials and Border Guard commanders dismiss such statements as baseless, and say the reasons for the recent increases are more complex than that and rooted, in part, in the guards' evolving mission.

Although most of the thousands of daily contacts between guards and Palestinian civilians end peacefully, "the exceptions occur too often, and in numbers that should bother us in a democratic society," said Eran Schendar, who heads the Justice Ministry's department of investigations of police officers.

After a review prompted by the televised beating, Israeli Attorney General Michael Ben-Yair told defense and internal security ministers that he is convinced that guard violence against Arabs is a "widespread phenomenon." Further, the data involving such incidents paints a "grim picture of a deep-rooted tradition of violence by the border police against Arabs, simply because they are Arabs," Ben-Yair said in a letter. "There are those who hold that the same phenomenon exists, albeit in lesser dimensions, within the framework of other (Israeli) security forces."

The attorney general also said



Israeli violence against Palestinians continues

those convicted of abuse should be punished more harshly than in the past.

Of 304 cases opened in 1996 for unlawful use of force, 73 were closed because the petitioners did not cooperate with the investigation. 47 were closed for lack of evidence and 26 were dismissed as unjustified. In 33 cases, guards were prosecuted. In 14 others, they were referred for disciplinary action and the rest remain under

investigation.

Schendar and others said the numbers would undoubtedly be higher if many Palestinians were not too fearful to complain to Israeli authorities. "The system doesn't work well," Schendar said. "If they had a bad experience, it could be they wish not to speak to us. But we are really eager to talk to them and find out the facts."

Guard commanders and Justice Ministry officials interviewed recently condemned the violence and said they are trying, through increased training and educational seminars, to combat the trend. Border Guard trainees, who already received specialized police and anti-terrorism classes along with six months of basic training, will now be given expanded instruction in such areas as when to use force, officials said.

Nevertheless, they cited several reasons for the escalation, including the changing mission of the Guard because of the peace process, a declining ratio of career officers to conscripts and lingering anger over September gun battles between Palestinians and Israelis, including many border police.

More than 75 people died and about 1,000 were wounded in that violence, which flared across the West Bank and Gaza Strip after Israel's opening of a tunnel entrance in Jerusalem's Old City.

"One reason for these events is the frustration that develops in the field, the hostility (the border police) feel" from the Palestinian population, said Brig. Gen. Nir Tsafir, who commands the Jerusalem region's 1,250 guards.

In a September report, the Israeli human rights group

B'Tselem described 11 incidents in which Palestinians aged 13 to 48 complained of beatings or mistreatment by Israeli security forces, including time by border police. The cases, all in June and July, raised "the fact that the hands of the authorities are being freed, particularly those of the police, regarding Palestinians from the occupied territories," the report said.

The allegations gained new credibility with the Israeli public and acknowledgment from the government after the Nov. 18 broadcast of the amateur videotape by Channel 1 TV. Government officials, including Netanyahu, denounced the two guards shown in the tape and declared that such abuse "is not typical of the behavior of Israeli security forces toward Palestinian civilians."

The guards, David Ben-Ari, 20, and Tzahi Shmua'ya, 19, are awaiting trial on charges of aggravated assault and abuse of power. They are being held under house arrest.

Four other guards were charged the same day in connection with the beating in June of another Palestinian caught in Israel without a permit to be there. The man was taken to a wooded area and, according to the charges, beaten on the head with a baton until the baton broke and he lost consciousness.

Human rights activists and Palestinian officials dispute assertions by Netanyahu and others that the treatment of Palestinians exhibited in either incident is unusual, and have said they feel vindicated by the statements and figures later released by Justice Ministry officials. ■



Chairman of the Palestinian Airlines Brig. Fayez Zaydan (Center), Shaikh Youssef of the Palestinian authorities (second from left) and the pilots of the airline. The plane was on its maiden flight to Saudi Arabia carrying Palestinian pilgrims. It was due to fly from the Gaza strip last Friday, but technical delays by Israel meant that it had to fly from Egypt.

Pragmatism wins the day in Hebron

Netanyahu's slow political evolution takes him from extreme right to center right

By Barton Gellman
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Wednesday renounced the dream that defined and divided Israeli politics for a generation.

The dream was his own, and that of his Likud Party, which has governed Israel according to its demands for 16 of the last 20 years. It saw an Israel unchallenged in sovereignty from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, with all of the West Bank in its hands. That vision animated Netanyahu's whole political life, and he ascended to Likud Party leadership as its foremost public voice.

Wednesday, perceiving no choice, he set it aside. Having led his political movement to power, Netanyahu gave it two shocks that already have begun to tear it in half.

First, he consented to withdraw from most of Hebron, the city at the center of Israel's biblical claim to the West Bank. Second, and more fateful-

ly, Netanyahu agreed to transfer large if unspecified rural stretches of the occupied territory to Palestinian control by late next year.

Netanyahu's core supporters

might have forgiven him for shaking Yasser Arafat's hand in September, depriving him of the long-time argument that there was no one to talk to about compromise. But many said they cannot forgive—or even quite believe—that their standard-bearer is handing real assets to what he so often called the emerging "PLO terrorist state."

"That's about the end of what we call the Land of Israel movement," said Yitzhak Harel, founder and former chairman of the Yesha Council, the umbrella movement of Jewish settlers in the West Bank. "It means that all our efforts in the last 30 years are in vain. ... It is better to bring down this government than allow this government to bring down our beliefs."

In fact, the governing coalition is on the brink of self-destruction over Wednesday's accord. Many of Netanyahu's 66 legislators in the 120-seat parliament are expected to desert him when the pact comes to a vote, though support from the Labor Party and other left-of-center factions will ensure he survives a vote of confidence. There also remained a possibility that Netanyahu's cabinet—divided eight to seven so far, with three still wavering—would reject the new pact. That would likely force Netanyahu to enter painful talks with the opposition to form a new government.

"It doesn't mean that a national unity government is inevitable, but it does mean that Netanyahu has positioned himself smack in the middle of the Israeli political spectrum," Dore Gold, his chief foreign-policy adviser, said in an interview. "He will require the backing of the center-left in order to advance his center-right agenda."

What brought Netanyahu so far, so fast, remains a matter of intense debate in Israel.

Gold argued that Netanyahu has proved that when he says he's committed to agreements that his predecessors

Gold said, Netanyahu's rightist credentials enabled him "to deliver something"—the Hebron withdrawal—which his predecessors, factually, didn't deliver.

Ehud Barak, the favorite to succeed Shimon Peres as leader of the opposition Labor Party, said he doubted Netanyahu is "crossing the Rubicon" to sincere commitment to the peace talks pioneered by Peres and the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

He said it galls him, even so, to see Netanyahu "adopting one by one the same steps he described as crimes when they were taken by Rabin." Barak's campaign against Netanyahu's re-election, he said, will describe the Likud leader as "a usurper," adding, "You stole power, and we don't have trust in your character."

Netanyahu has made clear in public and private remarks that his bedrock beliefs have not changed. He reiterated to Israel Bond rabbis this month, for example, that the Oslo accord on which Wednesday's pact was based was "a bad agreement" that his predecessors should not have signed.

Yitzhak Shamir, the last Likud prime minister, said in an interview from retirement that Netanyahu has showed himself to be weak—abandoning "all the ideas of his movement" in order "to please the United States."

"In my opinion every agreement with Arafat and every concession to the Arabs can only weaken Israel, and not strengthen it," he said.

"I don't know who invented the principle that the decisions of the previous government have to be fulfilled," he added in another interview. "That is insane and malicious." Asked whether Israel should reconquer Nablus and Jericho, whose transfer to Arafat's year ago he called a "great mistake," Shamir replied, "No signed, he



comment."

Seven months of go-slow talks, three of which passed before Netanyahu consented to meet Arafat, have led to the premier's grudging acknowledgement that there is only one available peace partner among the Palestinians and one basic frame of reference for their talks.

The costs of renouncing the talks altogether, first and foremost in broad Israeli public support, are higher than Netanyahu is prepared to pay. Polls have consistently shown that a large majority of Israelis support the Oslo accord and want the peace process to continue.

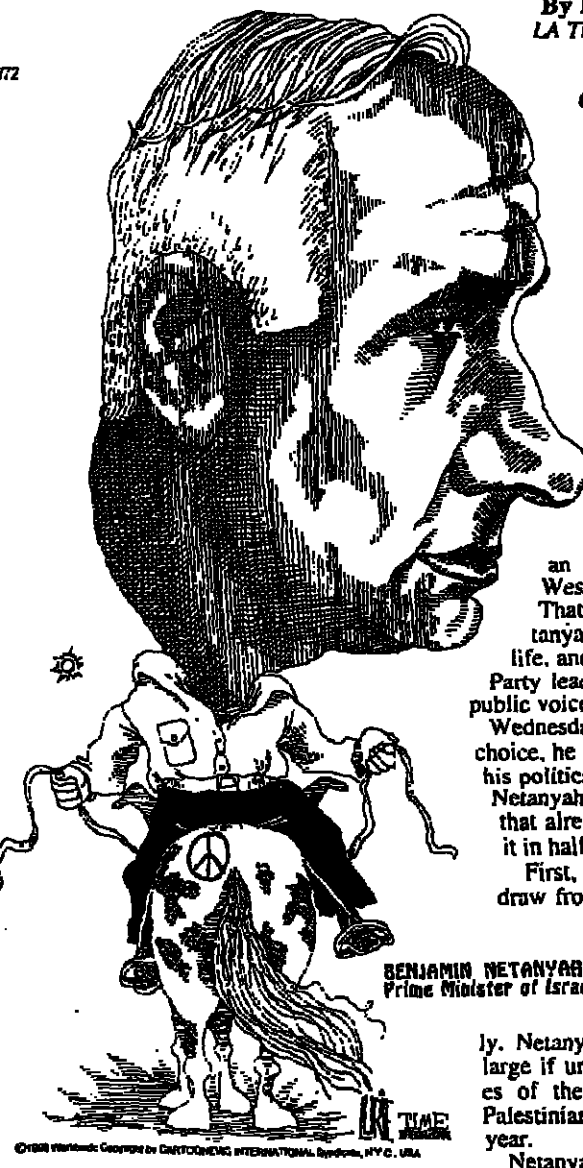
"The public understands," the mass circulation Maariv newspaper editorialized, "that the alternative to the peace process is intifada (Palestinian uprising), terror, Israel's isolation in the international community, economic collapse, and in the

war against the Arab world."

Ron Pundak, the Tel Aviv historian who, with fellow academic Yair Hirschfeld, launched Israel's secret diplomacy with the PLO in 1993, rooted strongly for Peres to defeat Netanyahu last spring. In retrospect, he said, "it may be that historians a hundred years from now will decide that this period is a very good period for the peace process, and I emphasize the word process rather than peace. The prime minister, whether he likes it or not, has given the partner on the other side, and the process itself, legitimacy."

Asked why Netanyahu would do such a thing, Pundak replied with the universal imperative of democratic politics.

"He would like to be elected again," Pundak said. "I believe his drive for success is stronger than his ideology." ■



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Under
cuts

Trade wave leaves Africa behind

By Stephen Buckley
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

ACCRA, Ghana—For years, customers could not call Kwabena Afari, a pineapple exporter, directly in Aburi, his hometown 65 miles north of here.

His clients first had to call this city, Ghana's capital. Then someone here would call the Aburi post office. Then a post office messenger would go to Afari's home. If anything went wrong, and it frequently did, Afari might not receive the message for days.

"Customers were complaining," said Afari, 46, who recently bought a cellular telephone. "My guy in Turin got fed up. He said, 'I can't work with you anymore. It's too hard to communicate.'"

Afari's struggles are a grim example of what ails sub-Saharan Africa and its roughly 600 million people. As a great wave of trade and foreign investment transforms the global economy, drawing hundreds of millions out of poverty in developing countries and creating new industries and jobs, sub-Saharan Africa has been left behind.

Afflicted by political instability, wrongheaded economic policies, lack of infrastructure and a dearth of investment in education and health care, the world's poorest people have grown poorer over the past decade. The great engines of growth in the post-Cold War world—trade and foreign investment—essentially never started turning in African countries, despite the efforts of a number of nations to implant the developing world's new free-market model.

"It's not that we have been left behind" in the global economy, said Lucia Quachy, who heads the Ghanaian Association of Women Entrepreneurs. "It's that we haven't even started."

An estimated 40 percent of Africa's people live on less than \$1 a day. Between 1989 and 1992, nearly half of the continent's countries suffered nega-

tive economic growth rates. Only in the last two years have there been signs of an upturn as countries including Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania and Mozambique pursue free-market policies; this year regional growth may reach five percent, according to the International Monetary Fund. Still, over the past 20 years, per-capita income has crawled upward by roughly \$70 in Africa, compared to a \$900 jump in East Asia.

Africa receives roughly three percent of the foreign direct investment flowing into developing countries. And that share could fall further: The United Nations reports that foreign investment in the continent plunged by 27 percent last year, to \$2.1 billion—less than China received in two months. Only South Africa, with its new democratic government, trained work force and rich resources, is drawing substantial investments from multinational companies.

Western and Asian business leaders say Africa lacks the infrastructure and stability to sustain investments in the low-wage manufacturing plants that are the basic building block of foreign investment. And they say most African countries do not have the consumer buying power that would justify local production of televisions and microwave ovens. "With Africa," says John Koo, president and chief executive officer of the Korean giant LG Electronics, "we have a problem making investment decisions and we don't have a solution at the moment."

The continent's lack of preparedness for the new model of global economic growth is linked to a history pocked with wars, coups and counter-coups. Since the late 1950s, 25 African countries have undergone at least one violent government change, with some nations entrenching coups as political ritual. Nigeria, the region's most populous nation and potentially most economically powerful, still is stumbling through the conse-



quences of repeated coups since independence in 1963. Meanwhile, many longtime dictators and strongmen have held their economies hostage, maintaining unprofitable state-owned enterprises, keeping high tariffs and price controls and explicitly supporting corruption.

And even those few countries, like Ghana, that have avoided war and political chaos and tried to open their economies to the new flows of world capital have been crippled by a lack of domestic investment, inconsistent policies and corruption.

Africa's economies will be crippled "as long as you have these mafia governments, these predatory states," said George Ayittey, a Ghanaian who teaches economics at American University. "In Nigeria, in Zaire, all over the continent, the people in government are just looters." Ghana offers a case study of how the region has fared. At independence in 1947, it boasted of one of sub-Saharan Africa's most promising econ-

omies, leading the world in cocoa production and holding an extraordinary range of natural resources, including gold, diamonds, oil, aluminum, timber, bauxite, rubber and cotton. By the 1960s, its per-capita income matched that of Malaysia and South Korea.

But the Black Star, as Ghana was nicknamed, plummeted as five coups rocked the country between 1966 and 1981. By the early 1980s, more than 1 million Ghanaians had fled to neighboring West African states. Shops were virtually empty. Infrastructure deteriorated. Inflation zoomed to 123 percent.

After the 1981 coup, new leader Jerry Rawlings embraced World Bank and IMF recommendations that helped resurrect the economy. By the early 1990s, 5 percent economic growth rates had become a constant. Inflation dropped to 10 percent.

Ghana, with 17.5 million people, also launched an ambitious effort to draw foreign investors, loosening a once onerous investment code and

offering generous incentives to outside entrepreneurs. It established export processing zones. It got a site on the World Wide Web. Having embraced the formula that has brought wealth to countries from the Philippines to Chile, Ghanaians waited for their own economic takeoff; the country was touted as one of the best prepared in Africa for foreign investment.

Yet the campaign for foreign capital has foundered, except in the mining sector. Critical areas such as agriculture and manufacturing, both with the potential to produce large numbers of jobs, have attracted relatively little investment. Overall, foreign investment makes up only four percent of Ghana's Gross Domestic Product.

A government campaign encouraging the export of non-traditional products—such as pineapples—also has largely failed. Export of Ghana's pineapples, among the sweetest in the world, lags behind that of Latin American competitors: In 1994, Costa Rica

exported \$45 million worth of that fruit, compared to \$5 million for Ghana.

Potential agricultural investors, like foreign investors generally, often are dissuaded by the country's unreliable infrastructure, especially in rural areas, which often do not have telephones, electricity or water and roads often are impassable. The rocky dirt roads to Afari's pineapple farm are riddled with foot-deep holes, divots, dips, mounds and widening puddles. Bad roads can mean damaged fruit, delayed orders and astronomical repair costs for Afari's aging tractor.

There are 3.5 phones for every 1,000 Ghanaians. Sub-Saharan Africa averages 4 phones per 1,000 people, compared to 4 per 100 in Asia and 6 per 100 in Latin America. The entire region has fewer phones than does New York City. Domestic long-distance telephone calls often do not connect, and international calls can be nearly impossible. Electricity is sporadic, even in parts of the capital. Some sections of Accra are without water most of each week.

Outside investment has thus barely helped to dent this nation's overwhelming poverty. Bare-chested fishermen toss their nets into coastline waters, hoping that day's catch will feed their children. Tiny factories—with names like Hallelujah Construction Bricks—dominate its towns. Subsistence farmers hawk fruits and vegetables on rickety tables along the rural roadside.

Ghana's people make about \$430 a year, approximately the same as 30 years ago. Unemployment exceeds 25 percent in urban areas. The government repeatedly has said it would like Ghana to become a middle-income nation by the year 2020. The World Bank estimates that, at this rate, Ghana will not reach its target until 2045.

Former empire provides 'cheap labor'

By Fred Barbash
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

SUNDERLAND, England—Ask a middle-aged working man in the North of England what he and his friends contemplated doing when they left school 20 years ago and you get only two answers: They would work in the shipyards or the coal pits, for companies

with names like Swan Hunter, British Shipbuilders, Cammell Laird, and British Coal.

Ask a secondary school graduate now where he or she is likely to wind up working and you will hear very different-sounding names: companies called Samsung, Daewoo, LG Electronics, Chungwa Picture Tubes, Woo One, Taung or maybe Poong Jeon or Sung Kwang.

It is a sign of one of the most dramatic changes in modern industrial history: the growing dependence of Britain, a rich country that once ruled a great empire, on South Korea and Taiwan, once poor, developing countries, to solve the chronic problems of unemployment left behind when the coal mines and the shipyards closed.

Those British industries were vanquished by foreign competition beginning in the 1960s and their decline continued as Britain in the 1980s began deregulating and privatizing its economy and integrating with world markets. The new jobs, in turn, were created by another phenomenon of globalization: the rapid growth of developing countries in Asia into industrial powers that not only can put factories in the developed world out of business, but also are rich enough to make their own foreign investments.

Since the late 1980s, Korean and Taiwanese companies have sought depressed regions of Britain where they could do what multinational companies are doing in developing countries around the world. They built factories to assemble consumer products for the local market and for export, tapping an ample supply of educated, unemployed workers. Their multibillion dollar investment now stretches west to Wales, north to Scotland and to the region around Newcastle in northeast England.

While the jobs do not compare—in pay or benefits or security—with the ones workers had in the shipyards and mines, they are grateful nonetheless, because for most of them the alternative is worse.

Consider, for example, Kenneth Chapman, who used to work at a coal pit, closed during the Thatcher era, hauling huge steel girders to shore up the mine's walls. Now he works on the assembly line at an ultra-modern microwave oven factory near here owned by LG Electronics, better known by its brand name, Lucky Goldstar.

At 38, Chapman earns less now than he did almost 30 years ago in the mine—\$240

per week now versus \$300 per week then—and there are no extras, no system of bonuses that gave him a little more money for a little more coal.

"The methods are strange," Chapman said. The British method is more easygoing. The Koreans, Japanese, they put a time limit "on every step in the process."

But not all the workers at LG see their jobs as a step down. For Mandy Little, 25, it was a step up.

Her memory of coal mining starts where Chapman's ends, when the mining company laid off her father. As a girl, she watched the area deteriorate. When she left school at 16, she and most of the other girls her age in Seaham, near here, went to work in a garment factory where they made clothes for a huge British department store chain, Marks and Spencer. It was piecework, and the pay was unsteady, ranging from about \$200 to about \$230 a week, insufficiently predictable for her to rent her own place and move out of her parents' home.

The new job carries a regular weekly check of about \$240. When combined with the nights she works at The Lazy Pig pub,

her earnings have "allowed her to rent a house with a friend. She's got a new car, a subcompact Seat Ibiza, and she's spending money redecorating her house."

Those whose job it is to attract investment say the issue of national pride is an old one. It no longer matters which nation makes what, says Andrew Fraser, executive director of the Invest in Britain Bureau, a government agency. "As they say, 'Toyota is made in Toyota,'" he says. The era of "national champions" is over.

Some of the workers, on the other hand, wonder why Britain has become so dependent on the Toyotas, the Samsungs, the Daewoos and the LGs of the world. They think something went wrong here. "I've heard one or two comments," Chapman said. "Why can't the British be as successful? Why does the government have to hand out grants" to foreign companies?

Chapman has some advice for the younger generation. "Nobody knows how long these firms are going to be here," he said. "I thought the mines would never shut. Don't take anything for granted anymore."

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Rise of market economy dents Chinese 'iron rice bowl'

By Edward Cody
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

SHANGHAI, China—The textile workers of Shanghai have played a special role in the saga of modern China. Their labor helped fuel the country's industrial revolution. And their strikes, conspiracies and uprisings—stirring portrayed by French author Andre Malraux in *Man's Fate*—helped get the Communist Party going in the 1920s.

But the rank-and-file glories immortalized by Malraux have faded into the history books. Another, less romantic revolution has come along now. With China's move toward a market economy and the globalized entrepreneur's search for ever-cheaper labor, a majority of Shanghai's textile workers have found themselves out of a job.

The "iron rice bowl" that oppressed workers struck, fought and died for 75 years ago has become too expensive in a years ago has become too expensive in a world of profit margins and mobile capital. And the Communist ideology that tal. And the Communist ideology that long protected Shanghai's proletarian heroes—and bestowed on them a special place among the revolutionary icons of place among the revolutionary icons of Beijing's Tiananmen Square—has gone out of fashion.

As a result, the textile mills that had been a mainstay of Shanghai's economy for more than a century are closing right and left. The traditional industry, which employed half a million Shanghai work-

ers in the 1970s, has lost between 200,000 and 300,000 jobs in the last four years alone, according to an estimate from Vice Mayor Zhao Qi Zeng. More are being laid off every month.

With the jobs has been lost a chapter in the history of the Chinese revolution rivaling Mao Zedong's epic Long March of the 1930s. It is a chapter that Chinese schoolchildren still learn, but which seems to have little to do with their present lives under the "market socialism" instituted by paramount leader Deng Xiaoping.

"There is nothing we can do about it," shrugged Tian Yun Fei, 44, who lost her job at a satin garment factory in late 1995. "We have a market-oriented economy now. We just have to get on the track."

Many of the jobs lost by Shanghai textile workers have gone to eager replacements from rural areas in the surrounding Anhui Province, who work for less with fewer benefits and less job security. In a cruel irony, they have found work largely because they prove willing to put up with the same kinds of working conditions that sparked Shanghai's 1920s uprisings in the first place.

Factory owners—some private from abroad, others various organs of the Chinese government in joint ventures—have set up manufacturing plants in outlying, rural areas around Anhui and other nearby provinces where workers draw between \$38 and \$76 a month, compared

to the average Shanghai wage of more than \$100.

Adding to the irony, many of the new plants have been started up by overseas Chinese from Hong Kong and elsewhere—scions of wealthy families that fled Shanghai when the textile workers and their revolution triumphed along with Mao.

In addition, the Chinese government has initiated a "go West" program seeking to move textile manufacturing west from its historical center in Shanghai to places where raw materials such as cotton, wool and silk are produced.

This reduces transport and thus cuts production costs, making China's textiles more competitive, Wu Wenying, president of the China National Textile Council, explained to a conference in Beijing recently.

The Shanghai Heqing Embroidery and Garment Factory was among the first to catch the new wave. It was founded in 1979 by the peasants of Heqing Township, about an hour's drive east of central Shanghai and well beyond the new municipal industrial area of Pu Dong. After starting with a handful, the factory



now employs 2,800 workers.

Zhang Hui Ming, 42, an assistant manager, said the work force comes almost exclusively from towns and rural areas

even farther from Shanghai than Heqing. Mostly young men, the workers sign three-year contracts that provide for salaries below the Shanghai level and few of

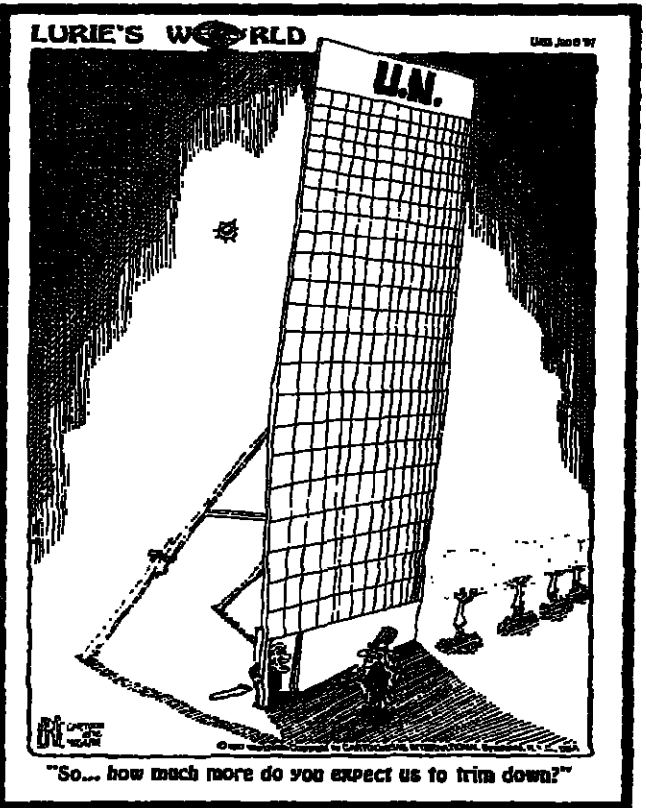
the social benefits such as job security and health care that were the main attraction of Shanghai's creamy state-owned factories.

"The workers there had nothing to worry about," he remarked dismissively. "They had health care, social security and other benefits. But here the workers are from the surrounding provinces, and they have no such security. If the factory loses, they lose, too. ... So workers here work enthusiastically. But not in the big, state-owned industries. They are just there for the iron rice bowl."

Zhang and his fellow managers have guided the Heqing enterprise to sales of \$12.5 million a year, speaking the language of "realignment" and "flexibility." They recently opened a sales office in San Francisco. In addition they have branched out to ownership of a taxi service, a hotel, a paper bag plant and a food processing factory that makes chips from imported American corn.

And when the Heqing workers get restive about their low wages, he said, the factory plans to move farther out in the country. A lease already has been signed for a potential factory site in a distant province where the wages are even lower.

"Our system is getting closer to the capitalist system," Zhang explained. "The boss can choose the worker, and the boss can fire the worker. The worker can also fire the boss by just leaving."



"So... how much more do you expect us to trim down?"

takes
ight

The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on JTV
from 18-24 January

ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY
1:00—Holy Koran
1:05—Min Alhadi Al Mohammadi
1:35—Cartoon
2:00—French Programs
2:30—Chris Cross
3:00—Feature Film: *Cry Wilderness*, starring Eric Foster and Maurine Grand Maison
4:50—Link with Channel 1 for sunset prayer and Iftar
5:05—Documentary
5:30—The Muppet Show
6:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Hanging with Mr. Cooper (Comedy)
8:02—Oriental Rugs (Doc)
8:30—Prism
9:10—Lois & Clark: New Adventures of Superman
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Journey Into Islam
11:00—Magyver
11:50—Feature Film: *Pat Garrett & Billy the Kid*, Starring: Bob Dylan and Kris Kristofferson
01:05—Ramadan Talks

SUNDAY
1:00—Holy Koran
1:05—Min Alhadi Al Mohammadi
1:30—Jonny Quest (Cartoon)
2:00—French Programs
2:30—The Famous Five
3:00—Feature Film: *Disaster on the Potomac* (Flight 90)
4:50—Link with Channel 1 for sunset prayer and Iftar
5:30—You Bet Your Life
6:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Fresh Prince of Bel Air
8:02—Oriental Rugs (Doc)
8:30—Babylon 5 (Science Fiction)
9:10—Tycoons (Doc)
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Islam in a Changing

World
11:00—Hot Shots!
11:30—Switched at Birth (Mini Series)
01:05—Ramadan Talks

MONDAY
1:00—Holy Koran
1:05—Min Alhadi Al Mohammadi
1:30—Cartoon
2:00—French Programs
2:30—Deepwater Haven
3:00—Feature Film: *Tomb Raider*, starring Jeff Goldblum and Carol Kane
4:50—Link with Channel 1 for sunset prayer and Iftar
5:30—I Love Lucy
6:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Rosanne
8:00—Documentary
8:30—Babylon 5 (Science Fiction)
9:10—Extreme Pilot (Adventure Drama)
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Journey Into Islam
11:00—Under Suspicion
11:50—Switched at Birth part 2 (Mini Series)
01:15—Ramadan Talks

TUESDAY
1:00—Holy Koran
1:05—Min Alhadi Al Mohammadi
1:30—Captain Planet
2:00—French Programs
2:30—Cyclone Tracy
3:00—Feature Film: *Inspector General*, starring Danny Kaye and Walter Slezak
4:50—Link with Channel 1 for sunset prayer and Iftar
5:30—You Bet Your Life
6:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines



Journey Into Islam, Daily at 10:25 pm

7:35—Murphy Brown
8:00—Oriental Rugs (Doc)
8:30—Encounter
9:10—The Lost Civilizations (Doc)
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Islam in a Changing World
11:00—Snoopy River
11:30—Rage of Angel (Mini Series)
01:05—Ramadan Talks

WEDNESDAY
1:00—Holy Koran
1:05—Min Alhadi Al Mohammadi
1:30—Cartoon
2:00—French Programs
2:30—Escape from Jupiter (Science Fiction)
3:00—Feature Film: *White Water Rebels*, starring Catherine Bach and James Brolin
4:50—Link with Channel 1 for sunset prayer and Iftar
5:30—The Muppet Show
6:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines

Amman cinemas

- Philadelphia I (Tel: 634149): Daylight
- Philadelphia II (Tel: 634149): First Knight
- Plaza (Tel: 699238): Al Huroub Ila Alqaimma (Arabic) Ransom
- Concord I (Tel: 677420): Bad Boys
- Concord II (Tel: 677420): Custom Made Citizen

Highlight of the week at the Pleasure Dome

● **Blown Away:** Jeff Bridges and Academy award-winner Tommy Lee Jones (1993 Best Supporting Actor) — *The Fugitive* lights a fuse under this action-packed "tension-filled-edge-of-the-seat thriller which will hold you hostage for 120 electrifying minutes" (Luis B. Hobson, *The Calgary Sun*). When an explosion jolts the city of Boston, bomb squad expert Jimmy Dove (Jeff Bridges) is pulled out of an early retirement and into the most harrowing work of his career. Evidence points to a bomber more dangerous and skilled than any he's ever faced—except one. The possibility that the terrorist is his former mentor (Tommy Lee Jones) increases the stakes—and as his friends and family are unsuspectingly drawn into the action, Jimmy is forced to face not only his bitter enemy but also his haunting past. Fueled with dynamic support by Lloyd Bridges (*The Hot Shots* movies), Forest Whitaker (*The Crying Game*) and Stacy Amis (*Rich in Love*), *Blown Away* "is the action film you don't want to miss" (Mark McEwen, "CBS This Morning"). Don't let time run out!

Courtesy: "The Pleasure Dome"
Tel: 676558 - Fax: 5538087



ORIGINAL Video Releases

■ **FRIDAY:** A very clever comedy based on the events of one Friday in a black neighborhood. The dialogue is original with some wisdom every now and then. P.S. check the father and thank your lucky stars you don't have one like that!

■ **LEAVING LAS VEGAS:** It won Nicholas Cago "Best actor" Oscar and a nomination for Susan Shue. This brilliant film has one clear message: No matter how desperate one is, there is always room for love.

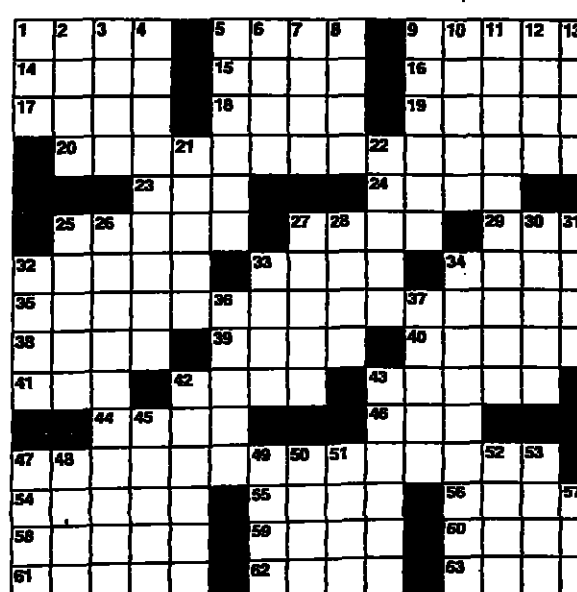
■ **THE CROW:** The film that was a technological breakthrough in the history of cinema. Brandon Lee (Son of the legendary Bruce Lee) died during the shooting of this film but computer wizards made sure he finished his job.

■ **WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:** If you like Sandra Bullock, you will love her in this light-hearted feature about a station attendant (Sandra) who falls in love with the brother of her dream man—whom she saves from certain death.

Also available are musical videos from Louis Armstrong to Beatles to Pink Floyd, Santana, Metallica, R.E.M. up to Hootie & The Blowfish.

Courtesy: "The Pleasure Dome"
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- ACROSS**
1. Bikes
 5. Florida county
 9. — Ste. Marie
 14. Tantalus
 15. Stand out
 16. Rich males
 17. Industrial basin
 18. Certain law officer
 19. Rationally
 20. Forsaken
 21. Possessive
 22. Spartan queen
 25. Andrea del
 27. Portray
 29. — the season
 32. Great success
 33. Assistant
 34. Annoying thing
 35. Odds play
 38. Gen. Robt.
 39. Pitcher
 40. As — (usually)
 41. D. C. V.P.
 42. Practice boxing
 43. Like an old woman
 44. Large part of the world
 46. On the — (usually)
 47. Improbable
 54. — light (queen-arc lamp)
 55. Hamilton foe
 58. Down light
 59. Actress Jessica
 59. Downcast
 60. Lab burner
 61. Coaster
 63. Hollow stalk
 - DOWN
 1. Med. procedure
 2. Transport
 3. Liniment
 4. Make holy
 5. Actor Robert
 6. To — (with no exception)
 7. Bike type
 8. Engrave
 9. Ill-humored
 10. So as to be heard
 11. Not appreciative
 12. Secular
 13. Kind of school abbr.
 21. Musical direction
 22. "Gambly"
 25. Climb
 26. Looking friends
 27. Coward, sometimes
 28. Pedestal
 30. Fiber plant
 31. Eye problem; var.
 32. Meadow names
 33. Taj Mahal
 34. Outer limits
 36. Prickly pear
 37. Hawaiian veranda
 42. Author or inventor
 43. — the Great
 45. Military endorsement
 47. End's state; abbr.
 48. — Baller
 49. Weathers
 50. Brimming
 51. Factual
 52. Recently
 53. Beach sight
 57. Small boy

—THIS WEEK'S— HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: The sun's gone into Aquarius, the sign of the scholar. These are the people who gave us the Industrial Revolution.

Aries (March 21-April 19). This is a good time for writing projects. Get all your housework done too. Hustle so you'll be prepared.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Pay the bills whether you want to or not. If you don't have enough money, send as much as you can afford.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). You're amazingly imaginative and witty. Get as much as possible down on paper. Drive farther than usual to get a good deal.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). You'll start feeling up to par. You'll be strong. That's good, because you may have financial hassles.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Meet with friends now; you won't have time later. The push is on. If you have a partner to help it'll be more fun.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Authority figures will be hard to catch, but if you can, you might get a favor. Club meetings and impromptu gatherings with friends dominate.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Get out for a breath of air with a dear friend. You'll stay busy keeping an older person happy. Don't complain — it's good for you.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Find the money you need to fix up your place. Complete a big assignment and make lots of points.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Let your partner make the play. If you need money, you may be able to find it. An older person wants more of your attention.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Work hard and get your correspondence out. Resolve your differences with your mate. Pay debts and find a way to bring in more money.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Romance looks good but you'll be almost too busy to flirt. These days could be a hassle — save your major decisions for later.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Watch out for a spill at home. Your life gets easier. You're looking good and it shows. Things don't go the way you planned.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: Love leads to work this year, but that's OK. Set a big goal you can achieve together.

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Bridge

Play Or Defend?
By Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

North-South vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ Q 9 5
♥ J 10 6 4 2
♦ 6 3
♣ J 4

WEST
♠ 7 4 3
♥ 8 3
♦ K J 8 5
♣ K 10 7 5

EAST
♠ 2
♥ 9 7 5
♦ 10 7 2
♣ A 9 8 6 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A K J 10 8 6
♥ A K Q
♦ A Q 9 4
♣ Void

The bidding:
South West North East
2♠ Pass 2♣ Pass
2♥ Pass 4♠ Pass
6♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠
Study the four hands in the diagram above. Would you rather declare or defend six spades after the lead of a low trump?

Note North's jump to four spades after the artificial and strong two-club opening and the two-diamond denial. It showed good trump support while at the same time denying a first-

second-round control in any side suit. South elected to bid the slam anyway. Since the bidding guaranteed a trump entry to the table, the contract rated to be no worse than on a finesse.

Declarer won the opening lead in dummy with the nine, and finessed the queen of diamonds, losing to the king. Back came another trump, East signaling with the nine of clubs. Since the hand could provide two discards with a trump as an entry, declarer tried to clear the three high hearts from the closed hand. Unfortunately West ruffed — down one.

That does not mean that you should elect to defend. Given the trump lead, there was a better line available that, once trumps were no worse than 3-1, depended on little more than a 3-2 heart split. Win the opening lead in dummy and lead the queen of clubs, discarding a high heart from hand no matter what East plays. Best defense is for East to rise with the ace of clubs and shift to a diamond. However, declarer can foil that by winning with the ace and cashing the two remaining high hearts. After playing off a high trump in hand, declarer crosses to the table with the queen of trumps to discard three diamonds on the good hearts. This makes six odd.

Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SCOTI

PHECO

TILPUF

GLOONB



ANSWER: SCOTI = SCOTI, PHECO = PHECO, TILPUF = TILPUF, GLOONB = GLOONB

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Words of Wisdom

The first and last mistake in any relationship is to try to change the qualities to which you were drawn in the first place.

What's wrong with changing one's mind? It would be a sorry world if opinion never evolved.

Opportunity favors the prepared.

To wait and to hope are the ultimate acts of faith.

The infrequent pleasures are the sweetest.

No one has the right to do as he pleases unless he pleases to do right.

TRUE! By Daryl Cagle



Smiling and telling a lie is convincing among children until age 7; above that age, smiling is associated with lying.

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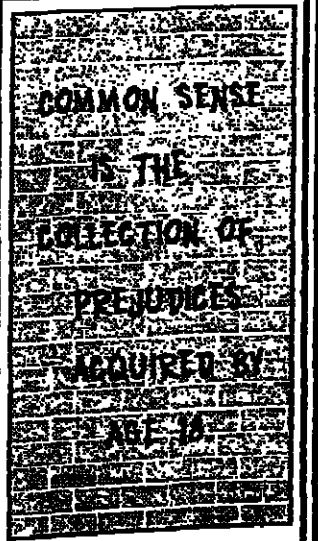
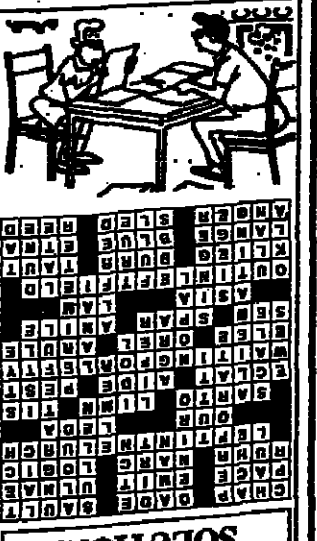
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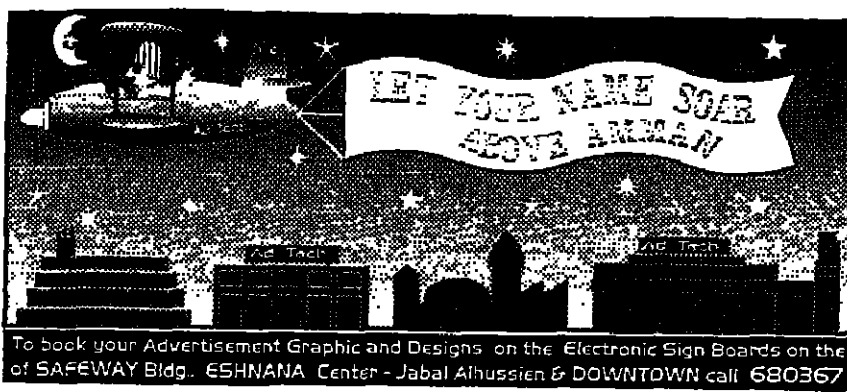
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French Cultural Centre	637009		
Goethe Institute	641993		
Cervantes Institute (Spanish)	610858	Sports Clubs	
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Y.W.C.A.	641793	Royal Automobile Club	815410
Dar al Funun	664251	Royal Shooting Club	736572
Alia Art Gallery	643252	Royal Chess Club	673713
Saladina Art Gallery	639303	Royal Racing Club	09-801233
Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	637132	Jordan Bridge Club	676990
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		Univ. of Jordan Library	843555
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THE STAR'S WORKSTATION COMPUTING & HIGH TECH NOTES

Edited by Zeid Nasser

Have you noticed?
Everyone is talking about the Internet and on-line services. The Workstation page is turning into the forum for these topics. Fax us on 648298 or email us at Star.NETS.com.Jo with your views. We and our readers want to know them.

Web continues its march across the Middle East

By Khaldoon Tabaza

THERE IS no doubt that 1996 was the Year of the Net.

The 'Net' proved, by solid evidence and experience, that if ever there was a single function for which computers were created, this is it.

The value of the Net lies in the fact that it provides computer users everywhere with the information they desire at any time. This information ranges from topics as specialized as nuclear technology to entertainment and coverage of the latest world news.

Still, the Net is a colossal leviathan that needs a continuous feed of information and tools. Content is what keeps it alive. With the right tools it is destined to rule our lives.

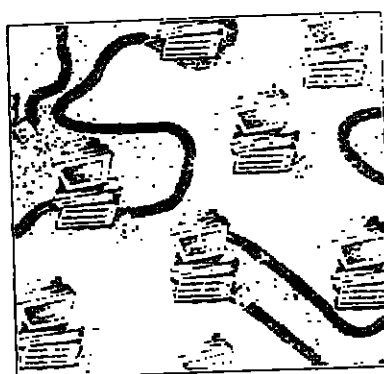
This Net could not be contained in labs and under guards and security. It was born in such places, but then it was discovered that it also lives by being shared and expanded. Soon after this was realized, and almost overnight, the whole world woke up to witness the rise of a new sun, a new universe. We called it Cyberspace, or the Information super highway.

For the Middle East, the rise of the Internet offered new opportunities and hopes. Access to the Internet content dealing with all fields of human experience gives us, for the first time, the hope and the opportunity of catching up with the 'developed world'. We have the opportunity to add our unique touch to the new Net culture, and to become equal 'netizens' along with the rest of the world. From the

beginning, all but the ignorant saw the potential. Along with the rest of the world, Arab computer users started to develop standards that fit the unique characteristics of our language. Many started developing Internet tools in the Arabic language. At the worldwide level, to embrace the Net—or not to embrace it—became a crucially important question. Arabs were

Since the beginning of this new age, it was discovered that more than a mere increase in equipment will be required to root the elements of this new world order in the Middle East.

Machines and equipment are useless without the software to process and analyze. Thus, investment in the Arab knowledge pool becomes very necessary. To nourish the minds of our programs, and help those who are already in college to prepare for the future challenges. Thanks to the Net and its resources, this hope seems closer to reality than ever before.



On the Net, things develop at an incredible speed. It is truly the world of the fast, fluid and flexible. Old ideas do not hang around very long. The slow, stubborn, and stupid wither and die.

The challenges posed by the Net are larger than any classification. They are not only of an economic nature, they are also cultural, political, and educational. As the use of the Internet increases in this region, governments will discover that old macroeconomic fiscal policies do not apply to the new sectors that are based on producing and processing digital content. So far, high taxes, bureaucracy, lack of an adequate legal structure, and a fragile telecommunications infrastructure, have been an impediment to the progress of computer software companies.

A look at how the Internet started in the West will give us a better model to emulate if we desire to have our own success story. The Internet started out as a government project. The main result of that was a mas-

Local software house gives new meaning to the word progress: ProgressSoft shows its 'wares'

By Zeid Nasser
Star Staff Writer

PROGRESSOFT, A Jordan-based software company, is making its presence felt in the region, following many years of hard work that have produced outstanding products and innovations.

An experienced team of engineers, who first started out delivering Information Technology solutions, were led by market developments to incorporate their knowledge into software-based solutions.

The result has been a host of impressive products such as PS-Term, PS-Sig, PS-Image, PS-Forms and more.

PS-Term is a terminal emulation software that offers multi-lingual functionality and provides a variety of features, that position it among the best packages of its type. Terminal emulation is a software technology that offers complete terminal functionality, on a personal computer platform, therefore doing away with the proprietary dummy terminals normally used in large corporations. As part of a terminal emulation technology, these personal computers are effectively linked to all sorts of mainframe and minicomputer systems.

Providing complete Arabization, PS-Term offers Arabic

pull-down menus and efficient Arabic printing facilities. "PS-Term has been a success with installations in key banks in Jordan and the Palestinian Authority, in addition to other major commercial sites in



ProgressSoft

Yemen, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE, Iraq and other countries," said Mr. Michael Wakileh, executive manager at ProgressSoft.

"We have found that there is much appreciation for the innovations that PS-Term and our products offer in general," he added. "This presents definite proof that software developers in Jordan have much to offer in the region's leading markets, and possibly even beyond."

PS-Term is available for Windows 3.x, Windows 95, Windows NT and DOS. The DOS version incorporates a graphical user interface (GUI), putting it ahead of its competitors.

Another major product from ProgressSoft is PS-Sig, a Signature Verification system primarily targeted at the banking sector. PS-Sig has given Pro-

gressSoft much acclaim for its ease-of-use, due to its GUI, and owing to the fact that it is a platform and database independent system. Here lies one of PS-Sig's main strengths, as it can run with any operating system, under any platform.

"PS-Sig is attracting a lot of attention, and we've got major clients all over the region already benefiting from its flexibility," commented Mr. Wakileh.

Other products from ProgressSoft include PS-Image, an Arabic/Latin document archiving and management system, and PS-Forms, an Arabic/Latin forms processing software.

All in all, ProgressSoft's commitment to provide quality products, in crucial categories has earned the company a respectable position in many parts of the Middle East. Now, ProgressSoft look towards more aggressive marketing in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, and plans are underway to take on major projects in countries like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

For more information on ProgressSoft, contact Mr. Michael Wakileh on telephone number (962 6) 703820, fax (962 6) 690564 or email ps@go.com.jo.

culture and morals.

Adequate investment by governments in our telecommunications infrastructures, deregulation, and privatization would easily permit more underprivileged students to access the Web and use its resources. This is the only way to encourage economies of scale: only the governments have the resources to invest in such an undertaking. When considering the previous factors, we need to also realize that the average per capita income in many of the region's

countries is one third of the per capita income in the United States.

Again, the Western model would serve us very well in this respect. The Internet is a very powerful embodiment of the law of nature. The rapid pace by which information on it is exchanged threatens the very structure of societies and economies that fail to adjust to it. The Net has erased any feelings of isolation among economic or political entities and the world is becoming one big sublimary village.

16-Speed CD-ROM drive from Hitachi

HITACHI HAS announced that it will launch the fastest CD-ROM drive ever, providing 16 times speed. Compared to the standard on the market today, which is 8 times speed CD-ROM drives, this product will be revolutionary. It will take multimedia PCs several steps ahead, in handling complex graphics and sounds that require constant, fast, data reading. The drive will appear in the first half of 1997.



British teams' new lure for fans: Shares of stock

By Fred Barbash
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

LONDON—When one of Britain's most beloved soccer managers abruptly resigned Wednesday, it was easily the biggest story of the day in Britain—the stuff of news flashes on television and front-page stories in every national paper. The man is worshipped.

More intriguingly, the resignation of Kevin Keegan from Newcastle United was also the biggest story in the City—London's equivalent of Wall Street—and there was nearly as much armchair commentary from stock market analysts as from sportswriters.

It highlighted the hottest trend in the business of sports here and one of the hottest in investing: soccer teams going public, taking their place and their chances on the stock market—a rare phenomenon among sports teams in the United States. As a result, while most people who follow Britain's most popular sport still want to know whether their team won, increasing numbers also want to know if the team is outperforming the market.

Newcastle United, following the example of 10 other big-time teams, is scheduled to begin selling stock this spring. And while some people wanted to know how Keegan's departure might affect the team's play, others were equally concerned about its impact on the potential share price.

As a matter of fact, the listed teams are doing considerably better than the rest of the market here, and that feeds the investment fever. By some reckonings, the value of an average share in a soccer team rose by 189 percent last year, compared with 11 percent for the market as a whole. Last year, the *Financial Times* reported recently, "will go down as the year the City fell in love with football—not as a sport, but as an investment."

The trend is a sharp departure from the long traditions of soccer here—where, as in most of the world, it is known as football. Like professional teams in the United States, many British soccer teams were



once the playthings of wealthy and sometimes flamboyant businessmen or were maintained by loyal local boosters. Most of the country's 90-odd professional teams still are.

But at the top of the heap—the Premier League of the nation's 20 best teams—public ownership is all the rage. The reason, as with all market-related matters, is money. A team can raise tens of millions of dollars by selling shares to an eager public, money that owners would otherwise have to take out of their own pockets or borrow or raise privately from other rich people. In recent years, the skyrocketing price of players and the desire for fancy new stadiums have increased drastically the amounts that owners must invest. Newcastle United, which recently paid a record \$22 million for a single player, hopes to raise roughly \$250 million by selling stock.

In the Premier League, there is also more money to be made than ever before, thanks in no small measure to the same man who purchased much of the television rights to the National Football League, media magnate Rupert Murdoch. His Sky Sports network has bought the rights to televise Premier League soccer, pumping millions into the sport. Pay-per-view games also are likely

to debut in Britain soon, courtesy of Murdoch, and are expected to produce even more revenue for the teams, as will promotional deals with sporting goods companies, the beverage industry and other businesses seeking to identify with Britain's most watched game.

The kick that soccer is giving the stock market began quietly in 1983, when London's Tottenham Hotspur went public. In the last two years, it became a craze, with teams from Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds and other places joining the pack. Five or six other teams, including Newcastle, are planning stock sales, and new sports investment groups are cropping up. "The other teams are waking up," said Guy Feld, a football analyst at the UBS investment firm.

Feld wondered if investor-owned teams would be as successful in the United States, where fans' interests and loyalties are divided among several big-league sports. The risk may be greater here. Soccer teams drop in and out of the Premier League, depending on their performance. If they do badly, they are relegated to lower-level, and less lucrative, divisions, while another team is elevated. The worst thing that could happen to a soccer stock, Feld said, would be such relegation—which would drasti-

cally reduce television revenue. In the United States, few teams are publicly traded. Shares in the Florida Panthers hockey team and the Boston Celtics in basketball are bought and sold on the stock market. A few other teams are publicly traded as part of the larger corporations that own them, such as the Mighty Ducks, a hockey team owned by the Walt Disney Co., and the California Angels, a baseball team with a 25 percent interest in it.

The National Football League does not permit teams to issue stock. What impact going public will have on the field of play has yet to be determined, although some reports here say that Keegan's resignation is one of the first effects. The *Times* of London reported that Keegan had planned on quitting for some time to pursue other interests, and bankers advising the team on its stock issue recently advised the club that there was legal danger in failing to disclose Keegan's plans in the coming prospectus—the informational statement required when a company goes public.

If he intended to step down, he had to do so now, they reportedly told Keegan. He went—with no public explanation.

Hingis is lauded for her normalcy

By Julie Cart
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

UNEXPECTED SURPRISES on the women's tennis tour usually involve unearthed arrest records or the publication of compromising photographs. It is in this context that the blossoming of Martina Hingis as the sport's next star has been greeted with a collective sigh from tennis executives. At last, a well-adjusted tennis player.

Hingis, who just turned 16, is newsworthy not only for her remarkable rise in the rankings—starting 1996 at No. 20 and ending at No. 4—but also because she's an adolescent who's so relentlessly normal.

Teenage burnout is an established pattern in women's tennis, and so far, despite an ambitious schedule, the Swiss player has avoided it. A more accurate test of Hingis' mental and physical durability began Monday, with the start of another tennis season at the Australian Open.

In October 1994, Hingis and former Californian Venus Williams took advantage of a closing window of opportunity to turn pro at 14, causing a mighty backlash and a torrent of cradle-robbing criticism.

The tour cringed, already sensitive to the charge and familiar with the pattern. Women's tennis launches its teenagers professionally, then observes their progress from behind spread fingers. Even the most optimistic waited for the inevitable embarrassment.

It didn't come from the youngsters, though. In fact, Hingis was voted most impressive newcomer her first year on tour. Then last season, she punctuated her rise by taking Steffi Graf to five sets before losing in the final of the Chase Championships in New York. She also became the youngest tennis player, male or female, to earn \$1 million in prize money.

Hingis' is not a success story measured by accomplishments, so much as by what she has not done. She hasn't blown up.

Hingis' arrival as a pro set off all the usual alarm bells, because not only was she an accomplished junior player with an surprisingly mature game, but she was also coached by her mother. A "tennis parent" observers hissed, as if a truly well-balanced tennis player could only spring immaculately conceived from a Florida academy.

In the weird reasoning of teen tennis, a prodigy's projected success is gauged in inverse proportion to the profile held by the child's parents. From the first moment that Jim Pierce bellowed instructions to his daughter to "kill" her opponent—it was understood that he wasn't kidding—Mary Pierce's career has been speeding headlong into a blind curve.

In the same way, the fact that few on

tour have ever met Lindsay Davenport's parents is seen as assurance that whatever her on-court fortunes, she will at least remain a "normal human" off it.

Melanie Hingis Zogg put a tennis racket in her daughter's hand when the girl was only 2, and put her in tournaments at 6. Although now a Swiss citizen, Martina was born in Koscice, in what was then Czechoslovakia, and her future was



ordained when she was named—even before she was born—after another famous Czech tennis star, Martina Navratilova. After she turned pro, the tennis world waited for the horror stories to seep out about parental abuse, but none did. Hingis appeared to be well brought up and well coached. There was minor criticism about Hingis' powder puff first serve, but Melanie Zogg defused it by saying her daughter was too young to begin a weightlifting program to develop her shoulder.

If Hingis bridges under her mother's tutelage, there is no outward evidence of it. They are inseparable on tour. Martina customarily refers to her mother as, "My coach, my mother and my best friend."

"Yes, I am Martina's coach, but I am also her mother," she says. "There is only one way: I am always with her for as long as she is young, trying to keep everything normal."

An accomplished junior player herself, Zogg alone coaches her daughter. Hingis worked briefly with Brad Gilbert at the end of last year. The sport's newest guru was helpful, Hingis said, but his suggestions only served to reinforce her belief in the correctness of her mother's teachings.

"Everything he said, she has already told me," Hingis said. "That tells me my mother is a good coach."

Even with the physical maturation she has undergone in her two years on tour, Hingis still does not lift weights and trains only 1 1/2 hours a day. She is encouraged to participate in other sports, and she skis, plays soccer and basketball and runs with her German shepherd.

Her game is developing into a fascinating blend of baseline prowess and spins, slices and a deadly drop shot. Hingis is tactically years ahead of her peers, fearless on court and moves with the light feet of a dancer.

Hingis, on the other hand, is still a kid just out of braces. Perhaps it is her age that has brought out the big-sister benevolence rarely seen on tour. Hingis has been the object of an unusual number of compliments. And the players offering them appear to be sincere.

Graf, from whom compliments seldom flow, has been generous about Hingis' future.

"It's a very talented, intelligent game she's playing out there," Graf said. "She knows exactly what to do. She is very quick, takes the pace for the opponent, plays sharp angles. No matter how hard you play her, she takes your speed and hits with incredible depth. Her down-the-lines are probably the best in tennis. You don't see a lot of players play that kind of game."

Monica Seles, who suffered her worst professional loss at the hands of Hingis in the final at Oakland, Calif., last November, said: "She has an unbelievable sense of the court, and she is very mature. There's no doubt about it, she's going to be a force in women's tennis."

Hingis has already experienced the dizzying arc that can be traced by a career in the public eye. Exploration of her private life has also gone from the hackneyed Swiss-miss puff pieces to the more probing sort. Stories are emerging about her father, about whom little is known. Swiss newspapers recently reported Karol Hingis is living in near poverty in Slovakia, earning \$200 a month as the caretaker of a tennis facility. Melanie Hingis Zogg reportedly recently sent a letter to her ex-husband, informing him that his child support checks would no longer be needed.

There are reports too, that the marriage between Melanie Hingis and the rarely seen Swiss computer specialist Andreas Zogg is all but finished. She has been traveling in the company of a Swiss sportswriter, who has told colleagues that he's considering quitting his newspaper job to manage Hingis' career. Denials to the contrary, the journalist is a fixture in the friends' box when Hingis plays, sitting behind Melanie Zogg, furiously taking notes.

As scandals go, Hingis herself is still a lightweight. The worst about her at the moment is that she's gaining a reputation as a thrower of both rackets and tantrums. How she manages to behave with such petulance and still remain so likable is part of her appeal.

The

Obsession into

By Raed Al Abed

ALTHOUGH the world has been through the horrors of the Holocaust and the Armenian genocide, and the recent wars in Bosnia and Rwanda, and the recent wars in the Middle East, the world is still a place of violence and hatred. The world is still a place where people are being killed and tortured. The world is still a place where people are being oppressed and exploited. The world is still a place where people are being denied their basic rights and freedoms. The world is still a place where people are being treated as less than human.

On the 25th anniversary of the Holocaust, the world is still a place of violence and hatred. The world is still a place where people are being killed and tortured. The world is still a place where people are being oppressed and exploited. The world is still a place where people are being denied their basic rights and freedoms. The world is still a place where people are being treated as less than human.

Sudan rumbles into road

By John Danisewski

CAIRO—Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir has announced that he will accept the results of the 1996 elections, which were held in a free and fair manner. The results showed that the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) won a majority of the seats in the National Assembly. This is a significant victory for the SPLA, which has been fighting for the independence of Sudan since 1983.

The SPLA's victory is a major step towards the end of the civil war in Sudan. The SPLA has been fighting for the independence of Sudan since 1983. The war has caused the deaths of thousands of people and the displacement of millions. The SPLA's victory is a major step towards the end of the civil war in Sudan.

Rumors

By Lee Hockstader

MOSCOW—It's the story of a young woman who has become a sensation in Russia. Her name is Yelena Yeliseyeva. She is a 15-year-old girl who has become a sensation in Russia. She is a young woman who has become a sensation in Russia. She is a 15-year-old girl who has become a sensation in Russia.

Under a from-page headline, "Yelena Yeliseyeva: The story of a young woman who has become a sensation in Russia." The story is about a young woman who has become a sensation in Russia. She is a 15-year-old girl who has become a sensation in Russia. She is a young woman who has become a sensation in Russia.